

The Servant Called
Jeremiah 1
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the calling of Jeremiah.

Intro: 1. Jeremiah is without a doubt one of the great prophets of the Old Testament.
2. He endured a lot as God's messenger and we can learn from his example.

I. A Servant is called

A. God calls Jeremiah (v.1-5)

1. The time of the call (v.1-3)

a. Jeremiah was called during the reign of Josiah

2. The call (v.4-5)

a. Before Jeremiah was born God had planned for him to be a prophet for Him.

b. The name Jeremiah means "*whom Jehovah has appointed*" (strong's #h3414)

B. Jeremiah's concern (v.6-7a)

1. Jeremiah, not unlike others before him was afraid and made an excuse.

2. Moses made similar excuses (Ex 4:10,13)

C. Jeremiah's comfort (v.7b-10)

1. God touches Jeremiah's mouth and assures him (v.7b-8).

a. These words are similar to the words spoken to Joshua (Joshua 1:5-6)

2. God promises to give him the words to speak (v.9-10)

a. God gave Jeremiah an inspired message not some generic feel good speech.

b. The words given to Jeremiah were going to serve multiple purposes (v.10b)

i. Evil must be rooted out, strongholds of sin must be pulled down; widespread sin must be destroyed, idolatry with all its shrines, alters and high places of wickedness but be thrown down.

ii. He was to build on the foundation of truth and build a house filled with holiness. He was charged to sow the seeds of good and right in order that godliness might grow.

II. Two Purposes Given (v.11-19)

A. The Almond-Tree branch (v.11-12)

1. The Almond tree begins to blossom in January and was known to the Jews as "the awake tree".

2. The Word of God would be swift and there would be no delay.

B. The Pot of Boiling Water (v.13-16)

1. This is an image of punishment coming from the north.

2. The punishment would be intense thus the boiling water image is used. (v.13-14)

3. The enemies would come against Judah and Jerusalem. (v.15)

a. These enemies would be Jehovah's chosen means to inflict punishment on his people for their wicked deeds (v.16)

C. Jeremiah was to prepare himself (v.17-19)

1. Jeremiah was not to be afraid (v.17)
2. God has made Jeremiah a stronghold (v.18)
3. They may fight against Jeremiah but with God on his side the people will lose (v.19).

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Jeremiah trusted in God and so should we

1. Jeremiah had a long road ahead of him.
2. If it was going to be easy, he would of never come to be known as the “weeping prophet”.
3. He wept over the sin of the people, but God was also with him (v.8)

B. His Power was in God’s Word not in self (v.9-10)

1. God makes it clear from the beginning that the power was in His Word.
2. Jeremiah would be His chosen messenger, but the message was what saved.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Jeremiah had a long tough life ahead of him, but he trusted in the Lord.
2. We would do well to trust like Jeremiah.
 - a. He suffered, He hurt, and He wept but He never gave up.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9