**Jeremiah: The Burden of the Lord**

Q: Have you ever known someone who only shared bad news?

Jeremiah had two nicknames:

1. The weeping prophet.

2. The burden of the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:33) (Vulgate, Septuagint “burden”)

Background: Jeremiah 1:1-3.

a. 13th year of Josiah (615 BC) started out great. (ruled 628-609)

b. Jehoiakim 609-597 Unfaithful, surrendered to Babylon, rebelled went to Egypt, blinded and taken into exile

c. Zedekiah 597-586 Also unfaithful. Turned to Egypt again (despite warnings from Jeremiah and Ezekiel). Jerusalem destroyed, temple burned.

d. Captivity and humility. Rebelled again. Jeremiah taken to Egypt.

e. Stoned to death. Bummer!

I. Jeremiah 1:4-19 Jeremiah’s mission:

1. Say whatever I command you. 1:7-8
2. His mission is to preach judgment is coming. Disaster from the North (Babylon) 1:14

Q: Is this our mission?

No wonder Jeremiah was not all that excited to preach (1:6) He got some bad treatment Jeremiah 20:1-18. Esp v. 9

But we should remember that God will put words in our mouth (Luke 12:11-12)

II. God’s charge against his people. Jer. 2:4-5 Is God exaggerating?

(2:11-13) Q: How do we become worthless? Answer: By seeking the blessings of the world rather than the blessings God offers.

**Titus 1:15-16**

III. Jeremiah’s message: 3:14-18 3:22 4:1-4 4:8

Return, Repent

3:14-18 Return and I will choose you. I will bring you back from the northern land and I will make a new covenant.

3:22 Return from backsliding. To backslide is not to leave God. It is to no longer do what you did before (evangelism, prayer, zeal, etc.). Sounds like Rev 2:1-7 Ephesus disciples lost their first love.

4:1-4 What “unplowed ground” do you need to break up? What area in your life have you allowed to become hard and unpenetrable to God’s Words?

4:8 Do you need to put on sackcloth and ashes? (ie not take care of even your most basic needs as you attend to repentance) (like 2 Cor 7)

IV Jeremiah’s critique: Jer 6:13-15 The leaders dress the wounds of my people lightly. They say “peace, peace.”

v. 15 no longer ashamed…. Some of us are no longer ashamed of worldly behavior. Movies we go to, the places we go to, Missing church is not as big a deal as it once was…. Some of us have begun to tell little lies… Some of us have begun to do things at work that we hope our spiritual friends do not find out about. Are you able to be ashamed as you once were?

Some of us are no longer willing to confront it.

If you are friends of the world, it is no longer peace, peace.

(sounds like 1 Tim 4:1-5 Some seek to have their ears itched. Is that you?)

God’s solution: 6:16-20 Stand at the crossroads and look…. Seek the good way and walk in it.

We already know what to do….

6:20 It is not simply about being more religious.

(Parallel passage Jeremiah 23:16-24)

Jer 7-17 Lots more bad news we will skip False religion, Slaughter, Punishment, Destruction, Broken Covenant, Drought, Famine, Sword, Disaster

Jer 15:1-2 Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Death, sword, starvation, captivity

V. Jeremiah announces good news. Ultimately, Jeremiah is a prophet of good news!!!!

Jeremiah 23:1-8 God will gather a remnant and place shepherds over them.

Jeremiah 29:1-14 I will rescue you from captivity. I will bring you back to the Promised Land.

Do you believe God has great plans for you if you will plow up the unplowed ground, seek the ancient paths, and seek him with all your heart?

Will you wait seventy years for God to bless you?

Jeremiah 30:1-11

v. 10 Has God saved you from a distant place?

Jeremiah 31:27-37 More good news.

Jeremiah 33:12-22 Still more encouragement.