

Navigating Uncertainty

Lesson 5

Jeremiah 15

October 11, 2020

Standing Alone When Everyone's Against You

Introduction

It often takes great courage to stand alone when everyone else is going the opposite way. As humans, we deeply desire community and to belong. Thus, we fear being cast out from those around us for any reason. Sometimes we end up seeking to blend in to avoid the consequence of potentially being alone and standing up for Jesus.

However, the call of Jesus on our lives leads to standing alone. Jesus put it bluntly, "You will be hated by everyone because of me" (Matthew 10:22a). We should not forget, though, that God will always be with us, no matter what happens to us. And "I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10b). If we remember that, we can withstand anything the enemy or the world throws at us, including standing alone against the grain of the world.

Memory verse: "LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake."—Jeremiah 15:15

Pray and read Jeremiah 15. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Not even who could stand before God would go out to the people? (Jeremiah 15:1)
2. How many destroyers does God send against Judah? (Jeremiah 15:3)
3. Who did Jerusalem reject, and how? (Jeremiah 15:6a)
4. What will God do as a result of this rejection? (Jeremiah 15:6b-9, 13-14)
5. What does Jeremiah ask for God to do for him? Why does he think he deserves this? (Jeremiah 15:15-17)
6. What is God like to Jeremiah at this point? (Jeremiah 15:18)
7. What must Judah do to restore the Lord's favor? (Jeremiah 15:19)
8. What will God do in response? (Jeremiah 15:20-21)

What does the passage mean?

1. By this time of Jeremiah, God has determined that He will bring about judgment on Judah, and nothing will stop him. Clearly, God's patience ran out on Judah. What is God's goal with being patient? (Psalm 103:8; Romans 2:4; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Peter 3:9)
2. Jeremiah felt very much alone, being the prophet to whom no one would listen. How is this similar to the call Jesus places on His followers? (Matthew 10:22; Luke 6:22; John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13)
3. What is coming for those who endure through that persecution? (Hebrews 10:36; James 1:12, 25)

4. What has God given us to endure such persecution?
(Matthew 19:26; John 16:13; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 10:39; 2 Peter 1:3)

Applying the passage

1. What do you fear about standing alone amongst the people you know because of your allegiance to Jesus?

2. What are some ways you may need to stand alone in your life?

3. What truths about God give you the courage to stand alone against the grain of the world? Write out a prayer below thanking God for who He is and ask Him to provide you with the courage you need.