

Navigating Uncertainty

Lesson 6

Jeremiah 11:18-23, 16:1, 18:1-23, 20:1-18, 38:1-6

October 25, 2020

Stop Acting Perfect and Start Acting Vulnerable

Introduction

Jeremiah was directed by God not to marry or have children. He was then told to warn Judah about God's judgment. Judah then persecuted him for carrying out God's directions. Jeremiah cried out to God in frustration, fear, and anger. He lamented.

According to Webster's dictionary, a lament is "a passionate expression of grief or sorrow." In the Bible, a lament is an invitation to tell God all of our fears, sorrows, and frustration. A lament is about trusting God during our most vulnerable times.

God wants us to give Him the full expression of our emotions, just as Jeremiah did. He wants our pain as well as our joy. To express anger to God is not to say we are giving up on our faith, but that we trust Him fully.

Memory verse: "Should evil be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for me. Remember that I stood before you and spoke on their behalf to turn your wrath away from them."—Jeremiah 18:20

Pray and read Jeremiah 11:18-23, 16:1, 18:1-23, 20:1-18, 38:1-6. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What did the Lord reveal to Jeremiah? What does the Lord plan to do? (Jeremiah 11:18-23)
2. Where did God tell Jeremiah to go? What did he see there? What comparison does God make to the clay and the potter? (Jeremiah 18:1-6)
3. What is God preparing for Israel? What is their response? (Jeremiah 18:11-12)
4. What did Israel do? What is God's response? (Jeremiah 18:15-17)
5. What does Jeremiah tell God? (Jeremiah 18:21-23)
6. What happened to Jeremiah because he was prophesying what the Lord told him? What did Jeremiah say to God about his call as a prophet? (Jeremiah 20:2, 7-9)
7. What was Jeremiah telling people the Lord said? (Jeremiah 38:2-3)

8. What did they do with Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 38:4, 6)

What do the passages mean?

1. As the potter, God holds power over the clay. As the clay, we need to submit to God the potter. What benefit is there to being shaped by God? (Psalm 139:13-16; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 9:19-24; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:6)

2. The people of Judah conspired against Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:18). In fear, Jeremiah makes himself vulnerable to God in prayer and asks for their demise. Why can we be vulnerable with God? (Psalm 9:9-10, 27:1-3; Isaiah 41:10; Romans 8:31; Philippians 4:6-8)

3. Jeremiah was persecuted for prophesying God's warnings of destruction. Yet, Jeremiah still spoke God's word despite the fear he felt and the prophecy's repercussions. Why can we have confidence that God is on our side through any persecution we may face? (Psalm 23:4; John 15:18-19, 16:33; 1 Peter 5:7)

4. The people of Judah had turned away from God. Despite Jeremiah's warnings, they wouldn't admit they were wrong. Pride stood in the way of their repentance. How does God view pride? (Proverbs 16:5, 18; Romans 2:3, 12:16; Galatians 6:3)

5. Jeremiah laid it all out for God. He expressed his fear, his loneliness, and his frustration. Ultimately, Jeremiah had to trust that God would see him through the difficult times. Why can we confidently go to God? (Psalm 37:5-6; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 26:4; 2 Timothy 4:18, 1 John 5:14)

Applying the passages

1. To what extent do you submit to God the potter? What prevents you from submitting wholly?

