



PERSECUTED

AUGUST 16, 2020

Jeremiah was part of a religious revival in the nation of Judah. People were feeling good about their country and their public displays of religious commitment. While Jeremiah was growing increasingly suspicious of this movement, another preacher was embracing the moment and riding the tide of popular public opinion. Join us for part five of **Jeremiah: A Prophet for the City** where we will discover that a prophet who is truly for the city doesn't simply smooth things over, but rather, seeks to make things right.



PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 20

PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

The task of a prophet is not to _____, but to _____.

The function of the church is not to make people _____, but to make them _____.

The call of the peacemaker is not to _____, but to _____.

PRACTICE (DO):

_____ the thing you would rather ignore.

Find accountability and encouragement in _____.

Press through the _____ to find peace on the other side.

DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: Jeremiah 20-21

Day 3: 2 Chronicles 24-25

Day 5: Jeremiah 28-29

Day 2: Jeremiah 22-23

Day 4: 2 Chronicles 26-27

Day 6: Jeremiah 30-31

Day 7: Jeremiah 32-33

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

Run with the Horses, by Eugene Peterson

Eat This Book, by Eugene Peterson

SERMONS (AVAILABLE AT SSBC.ORG/SERMON-ARCHIVES/SERIES):

Losing My Religion (2020)

Precepts for Life: Jeremiah, Part 1 and 2, by Kay Arthur

Worldview: Thinking and Living Biblically, by Greg Laurie and others

Intro to the Major Prophets, by J. B. Nicholson

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Which promise is most likely to be kept: the promise of a politician running for public office or a promise between two friends? Why? What makes the difference?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

As we continue to consider the life and ministry of the prophet Jeremiah, we are not only looking at his biography, but some of his teachings. Today we are going to hear a reference to a group called the Rechabites. This was a nomadic group of metalworkers who traveled around making and repairing metal items, mainly weapons. As with a lot of Jeremiah's teachings, God used this group as a living illustration of a spiritual truth.

3. Read Jeremiah 35:1-5.
 - "The word of the Lord came to me," is a phrase we read a lot in the book of Jeremiah. What do you think it means? Do you think God spoke audibly to Jeremiah? How did Jeremiah know it was God's voice?
 - How specific was God's word to Jeremiah concerning the Rechabites? If you had been Jeremiah what else might you have wanted to know before you carried out God's directive?
 - Have you ever had a "the word of the Lord came to me" kind of moment? Talk about it.
4. Read Jeremiah 35:6-11.
 - What was the Rechabite's response to Jeremiah's offer?
 - What brought this group of people to Jerusalem? (verse 11)
 - Imagine a caravan of nomadic metal workers moved into your neighborhood, set up their tents and began practicing their craft. How likely was it that the people of Jerusalem already knew about the Rechabites and their practices? Is it possible that it was already common knowledge that they abstained from wine? How might such knowledge have affected the way people thought about Jeremiah's offer to the Rechabites?
5. Read Jeremiah 35:12-19.
 - What was God's point in directing Jeremiah to make such an offer to the Rechabites?
 - What makes our personal commitments, family traditions, and social customs so important?
 - Notice that Jeremiah did not tell the Rechabites that they had to change their social customs; nor did he tell the people of Jerusalem that they had to adopt the customs of the Rechabites. What was the bigger point here?
 - Why do you think it was easier for the Rechabites to keep their vows to their father than it was for the Jews to keep their promise to God?
 - Read 2 Chronicles 16:9a. How does the story of the Rechabites confirm this verse from 2 Chronicles?
 - Read Matthew 10:37-39. How do these words of Jesus relate to the story of the Rechabites??

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together - in Huddles]

6. Did you grow up with any family customs or traditions? How committed have you remained to those traditions? How committed are you to the commands and teachings of Jesus? What makes it easier or harder to follow His commands than it is to remain faithful to the customs and traditions of man? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.