



HOPE IS A VERB

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

Is hope a practical way to live? Does walking by faith mean we don't need to have a plan? For many people, there is a distinct difference between hope and practicality – faith and reason, but not for the Prophet Jeremiah! As he sat in prison and the Babylonian army was invading the city of Jerusalem, he made what seemed to be one of the most irrational decisions of his life to show us that hope is more than wishful thinking – hope is a verb! Join us for the final message in the **Jeremiah: A Prophet For the City** series as we attempt to answer the question, "Is obedience to God always the most practical way to live?"



PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 32

PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

_____ to God is always the MOST _____ choice.

Hope only grows out of _____ circumstances.

Hope is a _____.

Hope requires _____.

PRACTICE (DO):

Identify a "hopeless" situation and ask yourself, "What would hope require here?"

DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: Jeremiah 32

Day 3: Jeremiah 45-46

Day 5: Jeremiah 49-50

Day 2: Jeremiah 43-44

Day 4: Jeremiah 47-48

Day 6: Jeremiah 51

Day 7: Jeremiah 52

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

Run with the Horses, by Eugene Peterson

Surprised by Hope, by Tom Wright

OTHER SERMON SERIES

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

For the City (2019)

Built to Last (2015)

U R the Church (2014)

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. What does the phrase "living in denial" mean to you? Have you ever experienced living in denial? If so, what finally made you come to terms with reality?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

Jeremiah's predictions have come to pass. Thousands of people have been carried off into captivity, the temple has been destroyed, the king is dead. Now those who are left behind must decide how they are going to deal with their new reality. They begin by approaching the one person who had been warning them all along: Jeremiah, the very prophet they had denied, rejected, abused, and thrown into prison.

3. Read Jeremiah 42:1-16.
 - What was the remnant's request of Jeremiah, and how did he respond to their request? (verses 1-4)
 - What commitment did they make in advance of Jeremiah's actions? (verses 5-6)
 - How long did it take Jeremiah to get back to them? What might this delay tell us? (verse 7)
 - What was God's direction through Jeremiah to the remnant? What did God say would be the consequence of their decision? (verses 9-16)
4. Read Jeremiah 43:4-7.
 - How did the remnant respond to God's direction through Jeremiah?
 - Why do you think they took Jeremiah with them?
 - Have you ever willfully and knowingly rejected good advice? What were you thinking at the time? How did you try to justify your choice?
5. Read Jeremiah 44:11-12.
 - What do these verses describe? How is this an example of God's judgment? How is this an example of the consequences of sin? Is there a difference between those two things?
 - While students of the Bible are not sure about the exact circumstances of Jeremiah's death, many believe he died in Egypt along with those who fled there. If that is true, it might be easy for people to assume that Jeremiah's ministry and even his life were wasted. Would you agree or disagree? Why?
 - Read Hebrews 11:1-10. How do these verses put Jeremiah's life and ministry in perspective?
 - What have been some of your take-aways from our study of the life of Jeremiah over the past eight weeks?

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

6. Are you facing a hopeless situation? What would hope look like in that situation? What does hope require you to do right now? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.

