

Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity
North Augusta SC
June 21, 2020

Theme: "Do not fear you are more valuable than many sparrows". Matt 10:31

Jeremiah 20:7-13

The prophet Jeremiah is a major prophet of God who prophesied during the reign of five kings of Israel, but something happened along the way as he was ministering that made him complain to God. In the midst of trouble, he always found himself in trouble whenever he was on God's mission and it made him to protest.

- Like this: God you persuaded me to go and prophesy to these people. I went faithfully and declared your word, your message, and now I am in trouble by their cruelty.
- Jeremiah expected fruitfulness and obedience, not deception and disobedience.
- He also saw atrocities committed by the people. in Jer 7:30,31 read
 - o Jer. 7:30-31. Jeremiah was discouraged from what he saw people of that time doing.
- Jeremiah's character was an example of what Moses did in Exodus 5:23.
- Sometimes we as the people of God are impatient in certain situations and we allow weakness of the spirit to take over our minds. But one thing is sure, God never sends one to a mission without letting him know what is on the way. God will instruct you and he will equip you. Sometimes He may allow some trial of faith by the evil one. May we not lose sight of the cross which signifies suffering as we serve God.
- Verse 9 of Jeremiah says "But if I say; "I will not mention His word or speak anymore in His name; His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in, indeed I cannot." Jeremiah was unable to quit from preaching or prophesying God's message to God's people no matter if they remained stiff-necked.
- The fact is, God cannot deceive us.
 - o Verse 10 - don't listen to distracting voices who are deceivers, they are just there in the world to deceive you and to stop you worshipping the only true God. If you listen to them, they will overcome you. Always remember that the Lord is with you in any situation. In this episode, God is not defeated.
- Jer. 20:12 - Jeremiah committed all his cause to God, therefore commit your cause to the Lord.
- Verse 13 - Then you will sing to the Lord and you will praise the Lord for all his goodness in the end.
- Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of five kings. They were king Josiah, king Jehoahaz, king Jehoiakin, king Jehoiachin and king Zedekiah. Between 626 to 587 B.C, he prophesied in Judah about 40 years.

- Jeremiah was called a preaching prophet, and that was the purpose of his entire ministry. Preaching throughout Israel, he condemned idolatry, the greed of priests, and false prophets.
- Many years later, God instructed him to write down these early oracles and his other messages. "The book of Jeremiah is intended as messages to the Jews in exile in Babylon" "explaining the disaster of exile as God's response to Israel pagan worship".

Romans 5:15b-19 - Paul wrote about Adam's disobedience. You can see that disobedience started from the time of Adam and Paul said that Adam's disobedience made many people sinners. Thank God for Jesus who practiced obedience and through his obedience, according to Paul, many will be made righteous by accepting him into our life as Lord and Savior.

The Gospel we read in **Matthew 10:16-33** says that we are called to proclaim the good news. As we go about preaching, we should be wise and should be harmless.

- Verse 17-23 speaks about what Gospel preachers go through. Christians should beware of these. Some will be taken to court. Some will be flogged or beaten in their synagogues. Some will be taken to the governors and kings for Jesus' sake to be a testimony for Jesus. Jesus says you should not worry about what to say to defend yourself.
- Even brother will betray brother to death, parents vs children fighting, backbiting at homes and in offices.
- Believers will be hated by many for the sake of Jesus until the son of man comes.
- verse 22b says "But it is the one who has endured to the end will be saved.
- Verse 24-33 - Jesus began to tell his disciples that if he was hated and persecuted, the disciples will suffer persecution too. Jesus encouraged his disciples today not to fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - o And who is that? It is only God Almighty that we should fear.
- Jesus continued saying, that God takes care of little sparrows that are worth nothing. He will care for us more because God knows the numbers of our hairs. He will not abandon us.
- In conclusion, Jesus says that we should confess him on earth while we are alive, so that he will confess us before God in heaven.
 - o He says whoever denies him, He will also deny before God who is in heaven.
 - o May we depend on God and continue our service with him till Jesus comes the second time. Amen.