
Ordinary People ... Extraordinary God
Jeremiah: Confronting Cultural Collapse"

03-16-25

Jeremiah 1

Introduction: This morning as we continue to look at ordinary people who God used to do extraordinary things we focus on Jeremiah.

1. To understand Jeremiah, we must understand what was happening in Israel while he was serving God.
2. He was the son of a priest who was called into a prophetic ministry by God in the thirteenth year of Josiah.
 - This would be a time of great optimism because Josiah led Israel in a national revival.
 - He purged idolatry, reinstated the Levitical system, reestablished the Passover.
3. Josiah met an untimely death in a battle with Egypt.
4. The kings who followed, from Jehoiakim to Zedekiah did not follow the Lord.
 - This was a time of cultural collapse.
 - It resulted in a series of defeats to Babylon (605, 597, 586).
 - This collapse is why Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet.
5. As we consider his ministry, we learn how to confront cultural decline. (We have much in common with Jeremiah.)

I. Jeremiah's Mandate (Jeremiah 1:5-8)

- A. Divine Authorization
- B. Divine Empowerment

II. Jeremiah's Mission (Jeremiah 1:9-10)

- A. Confrontation
- B. Construction

III. Jeremiah's Mindset (Jeremiah 1:17-19)

- A. Serious
- B. Active
- C. Steadfast
- D. Enduring

Conclusion: We have much in common with Jeremiah.

1. We live in a time of cultural collapse and God wants to use us as salt and light to confront that collapse.
2. The challenge lies in the fact that God's truth will be met with resistance and hostility.
3. Men love darkness rather than light.
4. This can lead to discouragement and surrender.
5. Instead, follow Jeremiah's example and recognize God's word never returns void.