

A CALL TO DUTY

A Sermon Outline

Presented to

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JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS

Course #421

By

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Text: Jeremiah 1:1-19

Thesis: To encourage brethren in their calling and dedication to God's work.

INTRODUCTION

1. What the world needs at any point in time or in every generation is the word of God.
2. The word of God is the lamp and the map unto those who are obedient to God.
3. However, if there is no preacher, how can they hear (Rom. 10:14)?
4. In this lesson we shall consider three main points:
 - a. The Calling (Jer. 1:1-5).
 - b. The Concerns (Jer. 1:6-16).
 - c. The Charge (Jer. 1:17-19).

DISCUSSION

I. THE CALLING (Jer. 1:1-5).

- A. A prophet is chosen by God (Jer. 1:5).
 1. God chooses His prophets and not they themselves.
 - a. He chose Moses (Exo. 3:4).
 - b. He chose Isaiah (Isaiah 43:10).
 - c. He chose Jeremiah (Jer. 1:4-5).
 - d. He chose Amos (Amos 7:14-15).
 - e. There are many others including John (John 1:6).
 2. Jesus Christ chose His apostles and not the other way round (Luke 6:12-16; John 15:16).
 3. The supreme Godhead makes the choice of calling a man into the ministry.

B. God has counted some men trustworthy to minister to people and preach the word.

1. This is not a miraculous or inspired calling like the prophets or the apostles, however when a man purges himself, he becomes a vessel God can use (2 Tim. 2:21; 1 Tim. 1:12).
2. When a man is faithful, he can be of great asset for God to send (1 Cor. 4:1-2; Col. 1:25; Isa. 6:8).
3. God wants more men in the field, and He has called many through teaching and training the existing preachers give to others (2 Tim. 2:2; Mat. 9:37-38).
4. He gives grace to all, even the least of all the saints that we may minister to others as good stewards (Eph. 3:8-10; 1Pet. 4:10-11).
5. Is anyone ready for the master to use?

II. THE CONCERNS (Jer. 1:6-16).

A. A cry of weakness (Jer. 1:6-7).

1. Many successful biblical people who achieved a lot for God, were first counted by people or themselves as unworthy.
2. Many gave excuses of not being worthy of the calling.
 - a. Moses gave five excuses why he was not the right man (Exo. 3:1-4:17).
 - b. Isaiah said he was a man of unclean lips (Isa. 6:5-7).
 - c. Jeremiah said he was a child (Jer. 1:6).
 - d. Peter said he was a sinner (Luke 5:8; 1Pet. 3:18).
 - e. What about us, what excuses do we have?

3. We have common concern of fear of rejection, being afraid of what others will think, say, or do to them.
4. But God wants us to stop giving excuses just as He told Jeremiah and console him with encouraging words (Jer. 1:7).

B. A touch of consecration (Jer. 1:8-9).

1. Jeremiah was fearful of his duty, but God knew the man he would become so He encouraged him that He will deliver him (Jer. 1:8).
2. Jeremiah was touched by God and given the words to speak (Jer. 1:9).
3. Jesus is encouraging us in our time, that we should not fear the one who can only kill the body (Mat. 10:28).
4. Jesus is with us to the end of the world and if God is for us, who can be against us (Mat. 28:20; Rom. 8:31).

C. A concern for soul (Jer. 1:10-16).

1. We must realize that a prophet's mission and a Gospel preacher's mission are parallel.
 - a. God told Jeremiah to "root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down," in the same manner, Gospel preachers are to reprove and rebuke (Jer. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:2).
 - b. Jeremiah was also "to build and to plant," Gospel preachers are to exhort with all longsuffering and teaching (2 Tim. 4:2).
2. Jeremiah saw visions of the calamities that were coming on Judah and was worried which moved him to weep for his people (Jer. 1:11-15).
 - a. God is concerned for our souls.

- b. Unfortunately, some people have forgotten or are ignorant of their spiritual status.
 - c. Men of God must be concerned and do something.
- 3. As gospel preachers, we do not see in visions but read the written word to see what is coming upon mankind for which we must persuade men (2 Cor. 5:10-11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 3:3-4).
- 4. We must sound the alarm, blow the trumpet as watchmen on the wall, ours is to preach to warn about coming wrath of the King (Jer. 1:16; Ezekiel. 3:17; Acts 17:30-31, Mat. 24:36-38).

III. THE CHARGE (Jer. 1:17-19).

A. To prepare to work (Jer. 1:17).

- 1. Jeremiah was told to gird up his loins which was a symbol for preparation and readiness.
- 2. Like Jeremiah, we must prepare and arise to duty by being mentally ready to serve God (1Pet. 1:13).
- 3. We must not be overtaken by anxiety which brings depression and worries that choke the growth of the word (Prov. 12:25; Mat. 13:19-22).
- 4. We must always be ready to answer a call to duty.
 - a. By studying the word (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - b. By praying constantly for opened doors (Col. 4:3)
 - c. By prospecting for opportunities to preach to people.

B. To preach the word (Jer. 1:17).

- 1. Jeremiah was told to speak to the people the things God commanded him.
- 2. We must prepare ourselves, arise and speak the word of the Lord boldly.

3. Salvation comes through the “foolishness of preaching,” for the foolishness of God is stronger than the wisdom of man (1 Cor. 1:18-27).
4. We must preach the inspired words of God.
 - a. Not man’s wisdom or human philosophy (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
 - b. Not flattering words for personal gains (2 Cor. 2:17).
 - c. But the sound word which is able to make a man wise (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
5. We must shape the intellects of spiritual minded men (2 Tim. 4:1-5).
 - a. Reproving to tell people their situation in the light of the Word.
 - b. Rebuking to convict people to realize their sins.
 - c. Exhorting by recommending what God expect us to do and encouraging people to press on for the hope ahead.

C. To prevail for the Lord (Jer. 1:18-19).

1. Prevail over false teachings by studying to rightly divide the word of truth.
2. Prevail over worldly things by loving the Lord and seeking things which are above (1 John 1:15-17; Col. 3:1-4).
3. Prevail by knowing that Christians are soldiers of Christ who are in constant battle for souls and enduring hardness (2 Tim. 2:3-6, 12).
4. Jeremiah was on fire for God, speaking with immovable strength like iron pillar and like a wall of bronze (Jer. 1:18, 26:12-16; 39:11-14).
5. A gospel preacher must preach with all power against all opposition, proclaiming the whole counsel of God (Acts 4:17-21; 20:25-27).

CONCLUSION

1. Like Jeremiah, we have been called by the gospel message to also call others.
2. We were not called to work the works of God (John 6:28-29; Eph. 2:10; 3:10).
3. As we have studied in this lesson; we must know our calling, overcome our concerns, and be prepared for the charge of the Lord.
4. God is calling people to duty, are we going to be like Jeremiah, to give excuses or you will be like Isaiah to say here I am, Lord send me! (Isa. 6:8).