

“Jeremiah’s Word Pictures”

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1:10-19

Introduction:

- 1. Jeremiah was a strong and faithful prophet of God. By the Holy Spirit he painted many graphic word pictures for God’s people to learn from.**
- 2. The mission of Jeremiah’s work was to testify to a sinful and stubborn people who were misled by false prophets (1:10-19).**
 - A. He encouraged the people to turn from their wickedness and idolatry, and return to the true and living God.**
 - 1) Jeremiah was a good man**
 - a. He cared deeply for the ways of God and the welfare of the people. He possessed Great courage.**
 - 2) Began to preach in the 13th year of King Josiah (627-587 B.C. - the fall of Judah)**
 - a. Some 40 years - he saw Jerusalem destroyed**
 - b. Called the “weeping prophet.” He lamented over the people of God and Jerusalem**
 - 3) Against great odds he continued to encourage the people to **return to God!****
 - B. Though Jeremiah lived some 2600 years ago, his word pictures will help all of us today to gain insight in order to be able to live closer to God.**

Jeremiah 17:5-8

- 1. We can visualize a tree or bush that is out in the desert, in salty, rocky soil. This is like those who do not serve the Lord.**
 - A. On the other hand, we can see a tree or bush that is on the river bank that thrives because it has plenty of water at all times. This is like the person who serves the Lord.**

- 2. The Psalmist made the contrast in the first Psalm.**
Psalm 1:1-6
 - A. Notice the four tree-like characteristics of a godly life.**
 - 1) Planted - fortified, stable, rooted, solid, strong**
 - 2) Fruitful - productive (follows planted & growing)**
 - 3) Unwithered - even during days of difficulty the tree-like soul is untouched and undaunted**
 - 4) Prosperous - God blesses him in every good way**

- 3. May we all delight ourselves in God's word, maintain a pure, uncompromising walk with God, and then we will grow into a stable, reliable "SPIRITUAL TREE."**

Jeremiah 20:7-9

- 1. We certainly should see the picture here. They had persecuted and discouraged Jeremiah so much so that he said he was not going to say another word.**
 - A. However, as he tried to hold back, the word became like a burning fire within him and he couldn't help but speak it.**

- 2. We likewise need to share the good news of the gospel to others.**
 - A. When God's word is within us like a burning fire, we cannot hold it back.**
 - 1) Like the excitement of the two on the road to Emmaus who had to return to Jerusalem to tell the good news.**
Luke 24:32-35

Jeremiah 44:2-5

- 1. The picture of God “rising early” to send His prophets shows that He was diligent in trying to persuade, warn, and encourage His people to return to Him.**

- 2. At first it seemed as though the remnant wanted to do His will** (Remnant meaning those who remained after Jerusalem was destroyed)
Jeremiah 42:5-6
 - A. However, when Jeremiah tells them what to do, to stay in the land, they did not want it.**
Jeremiah 42:9-12

 - B. They were hypocrites when they said they wanted to follow God.**
Jeremiah 42:20; 43:4

 - C. They didn’t want to do what God required, but wanted to do what they thought was best.**
Jeremiah 44:16-18
 - 1) It appeared to them that their own desires, their own choosing was better.**

 - D. Thus they were hypocrites when they stated that they wanted to do the will of God!**

- 3. The question is: Could it be that we are being hypocritical in our service to God? God cannot be deceived – He knows who we are in word and deed. (Col 3:17)**

Conclusion:

1. Jeremiah was God’s prophet with a purpose to encourage the people of God to return to Him.

Jeremiah 6:16-17

A. It is the very height of foolishness to turn away from God, the very fountain of living waters.

2. May we grow into stable, reliable, spiritual trees, and not be like unfruitful bushes in a dry and salty wilderness.

3. May the word of God be within us as a burning fire so that we can’t possibly hold back.

4. Let’s be determined this day to serve God with all of our being, for He knows our hearts, and He will punish and destroy all who live as hypocrites in their service to Him.

5. Finally, we will be on our way to perfection when we truly understand these words:

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

Invitation:

Place		Date	

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Richard Thetford, 2003 – (Based on an outline by David Riggs)