

Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher

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March Quarter

Lesson 11

Precepts

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OPENING QUESTION(S)

Which is harder to expose the truth or remain silent?

JEREMIAH 38:14-16 (NLT)

- 14 One day King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah and had him brought to the third entrance of the LORD's Temple. "I want to ask you something," the king said. "And don't try to hide the truth."
- 15 Jeremiah said, "If I tell you the truth, you will kill me. And if I give you advice, you won't listen to me anyway."
- 16 So King Zedekiah secretly promised him, "As surely as the LORD our Creator lives, I will not kill you or hand you over to the men who want you dead."

JEREMIAH 38:17-19 (NLT)

- 17 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “This is what the LORD God of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you surrender to the Babylonian officers, you and your family will live, and the city will not be burned down.’”
- 18 But if you refuse to surrender, you will not escape! This city will be handed over to the Babylonians, and they will burn it to the ground.’”
- 19 “But I am afraid to surrender,” the king said, “for the Babylonians may hand me over to the Judeans who have defected to them. And who knows what they will do to me!”

JEREMIAH 38:20-23 (NLT)

- 20 Jeremiah replied, “You won’t be handed over to them if you choose to obey the LORD. Your life will be spared, and all will go well for you.
- 21 But if you refuse to surrender, this is what the LORD has revealed to me:
- 22 All the women left in your palace will be brought out and given to the officers of the Babylonian army. Then the women will taunt you, saying, ‘What fine friends you have! They have betrayed and misled you. When your feet sank in the mud, they left you to your fate!’
- 23 All your wives and children will be led out to the Babylonians, and you will not escape. You will be seized by the king of Babylon, and this city will be burned down.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Given Jeremiah's experience as a prophet, was he right to question King Zedekiah's request? What did the king expect to hear from Jeremiah?
- 2. Are there times when you have been the recipient of advice you did not want to receive but the Lord confirmed it was from Him? How did you respond?

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

- In our world, we still hear the chant “no justice, no peace,” because there is a need to keep speaking out against systemic injustice. The Church must champion against injustice because we are recipients of God’s mercy and made equal at the Cross of Jesus. No matter the race, color, or creed injustice against any people does not reflect the God who created humanity in His image with the capacity to love without limit.
- There are plenty of causes in need of individual and collective voices for social change. Commit to sharing your time, talent, and resources as an individual, a class, or a church to bring God’s kingdom of righteousness in the earth.