

Desperate Prayer: Jeremiah's Complaint

Jeremiah 15.10-21

Introduction:

1. We live in a moment of great change and we all re-adjusting.
2. Jeremiah's prophetic ministry happened in the last 40 years of Jerusalem and Judea
 - a. Epic change and decline.
 - b. Jeremiah keenly felt the burden being God's word to God's people ... plainly bringing his concerns to God:

¹⁰ Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me.

...

¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

Looking at Jeremiah's Prayer of Complaint

Intimacy _____

Urgency _____

Loyalty _____

Loneliness _____

Pain _____

Despair _____

This kind of Desperate Prayer ...

Shows what it is like to wrestle with God in prayer.

The result of being in solitude with God ... regularly.

Example: Dr. Frank Spina's words after the shooting on the campus of Seattle Pacific University.

One of the things that I love about being a Christian, is that I'm required to be honest. I'm angry. I'm upset. This act has been an act of madness, insanity and evil. And so it's a day for lament. It's a day to scream. It's a day not to go too soon to comfort because that makes it false. One of the things I love about the Bible is its deep, almost brutal honesty.

God's Response

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:
 "If you return, I will restore you,
 and you shall stand before me.
 If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
 you shall be as my mouth.
 They shall turn to you,
 but you shall not turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
 a fortified wall of bronze;
 they will fight against you,
 but they shall not prevail over you,
 for I am with you
 to save you and deliver you,
 declares the Lord.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
 and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Jeremiah: Remember your calling.

If you would wrestle before God in prayer, expect God to push back.

Solitude with God is a place of Refining

Reminder: Next week is Palm Sunday and the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to participate in the Lord's Supper from home, then please be prepared with the fruit of the vine and the bread.