

Faithfulness in Preaching

Text: Jeremiah 26

Introduction:

1. Jeremiah was a faithful prophet of God in a particularly challenging time.
2. The nation of Judah was facing captivity at the hands of the Babylonians.
3. However, they refused to listen to the warnings from God, choosing to believe false prophets and corrupt leaders.
4. Yet Jeremiah proved himself to be a man of integrity and devoted loyalty to God.
5. He demonstrated how important it is to preach the Truth no matter the consequences...

I. The Commission

(Jeremiah 26:1-3)

- A. Jeremiah was to stand in God's house and preach God's Word to God's people.
 1. "The Lord's house is the last place one should seek to diminish the Word of God!"
 2. Sadly, the power of God's Word is often hindered by preachers who fear to proclaim the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).
- B. He was to speak God's Word accurately without any alteration.
 1. No man has the right to alter the Truth of God (Galatians 1:6-9).
 2. One who fears or fails to preach the Truth is like salt that has lost its savor – good for nothing (Luke 14:34; Matthew 5:13; Revelation 22:19).
- C. Hearing and obeying the Word of God was the only hope that Judah had to avoid destruction.

II. The Commandment

(Jeremiah 26:4-6)

- A. The instructions of God were simple: (1) hearken to me and (2) walk in my law.
- B. How sad and tragic is it that this had to be stated to the people of God who were in His house!
- C. A Christian (or a congregation) that does not stand for the Truth is of no use to God and no value to the community (cf. Revelation 2:5; 3:3; Philippians 2:15-16)

III. The Challenge

(Jeremiah 26:7-11)

- A. Upon hearing Jeremiah's message, the priests and prophets said to him, "Thou shalt surely die."
 1. They failed to understand that killing the messenger would not destroy the message (cf. Acts 7:54, 57-59).
 2. Rejecting the Truth does not change the Truth.
- B. Notice that Jeremiah said everything that God commanded him even though it endangered his life.
- C. Notice also that they were "gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the Lord."

IV. The Call

(Jeremiah 26:12-13)

- A. Jeremiah had preached the Truth, even though he knew that it was not popular and would not be well received (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2).
- B. Now, knowing that his life was threatened, he continued to preach the Truth.
- C. In the face of death, Jeremiah still called the people of God to repentance (cf. 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

