



# I FEEL YOUR PAIN

Studies in Jeremiah & Lamentations

July 15, 2007

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

Volume 5, Issue 37



### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Don’t Shoot the Messenger

### Introduction to Jeremiah 20-26

It was Shakespeare who first gave the advice, “Don’t shoot the messenger” in *Henry IV* in 1598. It has always been a gut reaction to get angry with the bearer of bad news, even when they have no part in the news personally. This was the role in which Jeremiah constantly found himself as he prophesied God’s message of coming judgment on Judah. As God’s messenger Jeremiah also became His primary leader, or influencer for positive change among God’s people. Because leaders in God’s kingdom are simply His messengers, they carry the responsibilities and burdens of leadership. In this week’s study we see first the leadership road that Jeremiah had to travel. It was a road that led to persecution by those who didn’t want him to proclaim God’s coming judgment. Jeremiah was

placed in stocks and then released; but as God’s spokesman he continued to pronounce judgment on Judah and on his captor, Pashhur. He did, however, feel deceived by God because of his persecution and tried to stop prophesying. When he did, though, God’s word exploded from within him like a fire, and he reaffirmed his trust in God, his champion. God would not let him soften his message even when the king tried to get him to pray for deliverance. In the second section we see the leadership code. Leaders for God must set the standard high, especially when good leaders are in short supply. Jeremiah declared God’s message that his political and spiritual leaders should promote justice and compassion for the helpless rather than focusing on enhancing their luxurious



**Our hearts should break with God’s over our sin.**

lifestyles. God would judge these bad shepherds, and then install His good shepherd, the righteous “Branch” who would act wisely and execute justice and righteousness in the land. Finally, there is a leadership load that God’s messengers carry. This was clearly seen when Jeremiah declared immanent captivity in Babylon; a death sentence was passed on him, then revoked because of the influence of Ahikam, Jeremiah’s friend. This entire story reveals that we should heed God’s judgment and not shoot the messenger instead.

## Daily Study Questions for Jeremiah 20-26

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

1. Look at Jer 20:1-6. What happened to Jeremiah and why (v1-3)? How did God deal with this (v3b-6)? What does this teach us?	
2. In 20:7-18 How did Jeremiah feel about his persecution (v7-8, 14-18)? What did he want to do (v9) and why didn’t he (v9, 11-12, 13)?	
3. From 21:1-14 what did Judah’s king request of Jeremiah (v1-2) and what was God’s answer (v3-7)? What alternatives did God propose (v8-10, 11)?	

(Continued on Next Page)

## Jeremiah 20-26 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Jer 22:1-12 what was Judah's king to do (v2-3) and what would happen if they did (v4)? What if they didn't (v5-12)?	
5. Based on 22:13-30 how were Judah's kings acting (v13-15, 17, 21)? What would happen to them (v18-19, 22-23, 24-26, 28-30)? Apply.	
6. According to 23:1-8 what were Judah's leaders doing wrong (1-2) and how would God deal with this (v3, 4, 5-6)? Who is v5 referring to?	
7. In 23:9-40 how were the prophets and priests behaving badly (v10-11, 13-14, 16-17, 22, 25-26, 30-32)? What would God do (v12, 15, 19-20) and why (v23-29)?	
8. From 24:1-10 who did the good figs (v1-5) and the bad figs (v8) represent and what would happen to each (v6-7, 9-10)? What was God's point?	
9. Looking at 25:1-11 what had Jeremiah consistently said to Judah (v3-6) and how had they responded (v7)? What would result (v8-11)?	
10. Scan 25:12-38. How long would the captivity last (v12) and what would happen after it was over (v12-14, 15-29)? Why (v30, 37-38)?	
11. Using 26:1-6 what did God tell Jeremiah to do again (v2, 4-6) and why (v3)? What does this show us about God?	
12. According to Jer 26:7-24 how did everyone react to Jeremiah's message (v7-11) and how did he answer (v12-15)? What was the outcome (v16) and why (v17-23, 24)?	

### Scripture to Remember

*"Is not My word like fire", declares the Lord, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"*

**Jeremiah 23:29 (NAS)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—It's All About Jesus, Reconciliation (Col 1:20-23)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share how you feel after you have been at odds with someone, then it gets resolved. What are some of the reasons it feels good?
2. Read Col 1:20-23. What does it mean that "all creation was thrown into chaos by the fall"? How have you seen that in the world? In your own life?
3. Discuss why it was necessary for blood to be shed for reconciliation between God and us to occur. How does that impact your attitude about sin?
4. The purpose of Christ's sacrifice was to make us holy, blameless and above reproach before God. What does that mean, and how should that affect our daily relationship with Him, and with others?
5. How can we "continue in the faith firmly and steadfast"? Discuss the difference between this type of life providing proof that we *are saved* versus *saving us*.
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.