

Sermon notes: July 21, 2024

Kayaking Up The River

Passage: Jeremiah 20:7-18

Jeremiah's Complaint

⁷ You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me.

⁸ Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction.

So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long.

⁹ But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,"

his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

¹⁰ I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!

Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.

They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹² LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind,

let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD!

He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

¹⁴ Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!

¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him very glad, saying,

"A child is born to you—a son!"

¹⁶ May that man be like the towns the LORD overthrew without pity.

May he hear wailing in the morning, a battle cry at noon.

¹⁷ For he did not kill me in the womb, with my mother as my grave,

her womb enlarged forever.

¹⁸ Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow

and to end my days in shame?

Jeremiah Felt Deceived By God

Jeremiah 1:5-10 ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” ⁶“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Jeremiah Still Couldn't Quit

Jeremiah 2:28 Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns.

Jeremiah 2:25 Do not run until your feet are bare and your throat is dry. But you said, ‘It’s no use!

I love foreign gods, and I must go after them.’

Jeremiah 5:1 “Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth,

I will forgive this city.

Jeremiah 18:16 Their land will be an object of horror and of lasting scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will shake their heads.

Jeremiah 25:9-11 ⁹ I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy^[a] them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. ¹⁰ I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Matthew 6:33 ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Jeremiah Knew God Was With Him

Jeremiah 29:11 ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.