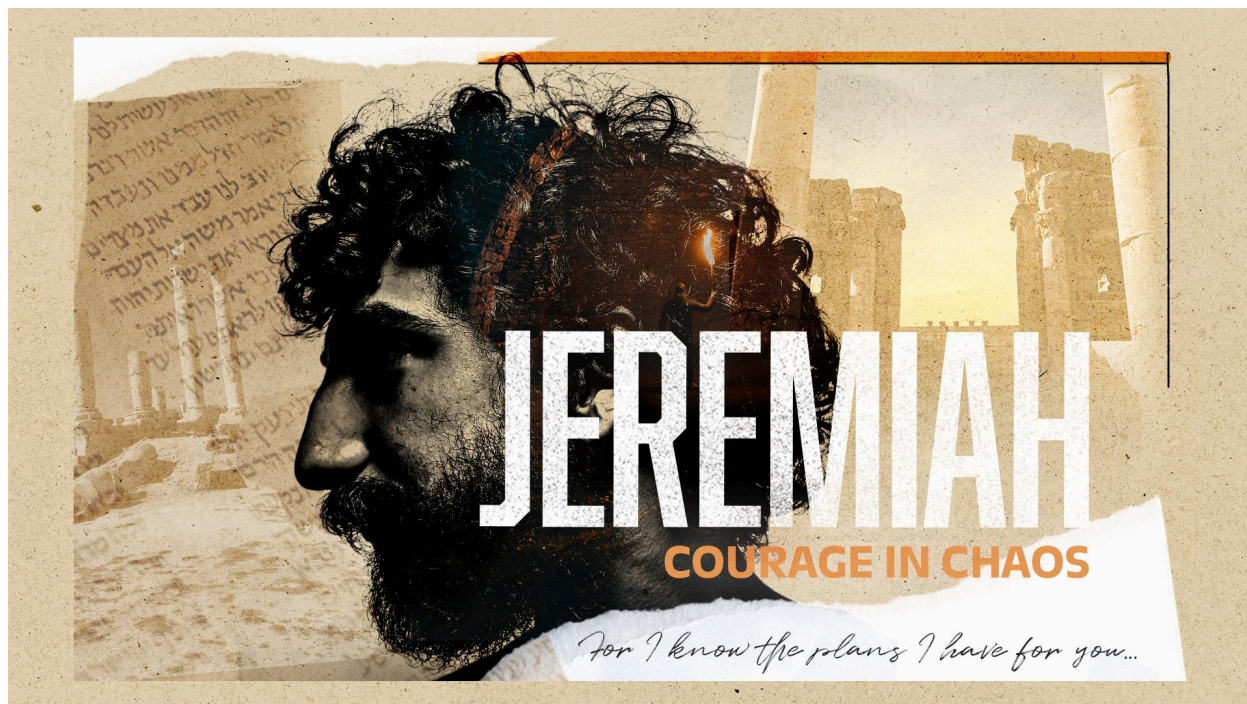


Jeremiah 20



Study Guide

Big Idea: Be Honest with Depression

Depression is the result of our fallen world, from sins done to us and sins we commit; it involves ignored emotion in our limited minds over extended time.

A. Read Jeremiah 20:1-2. Jeremiah is physically assaulted for the first time. Look at the following reactions and discuss the way he processed his situation:

1. Push Through (20:3-6). Notice how he initially pushes through, continues to face the opposition, and declare prophecy. Describe a situation in which you had to just push through a hard situation despite how you felt. What was that like?

2. Accuse God (20:7). He accuses God of deceiving him after God had promised to protect and deliver him (Jer. 1:17-19). Share a time when God was confusing to you, and you felt a little let down by Him.

3. Desire to Quit (20:8-9). Jeremiah wants to quit but can't because of the "fire in his bones" of the message to warn people. Share a time when you wanted to quit. What did that feel like?

4. Abandoned by Friends (20:10). Share a time when you were misjudged and abandoned by friends. How did that affect you?

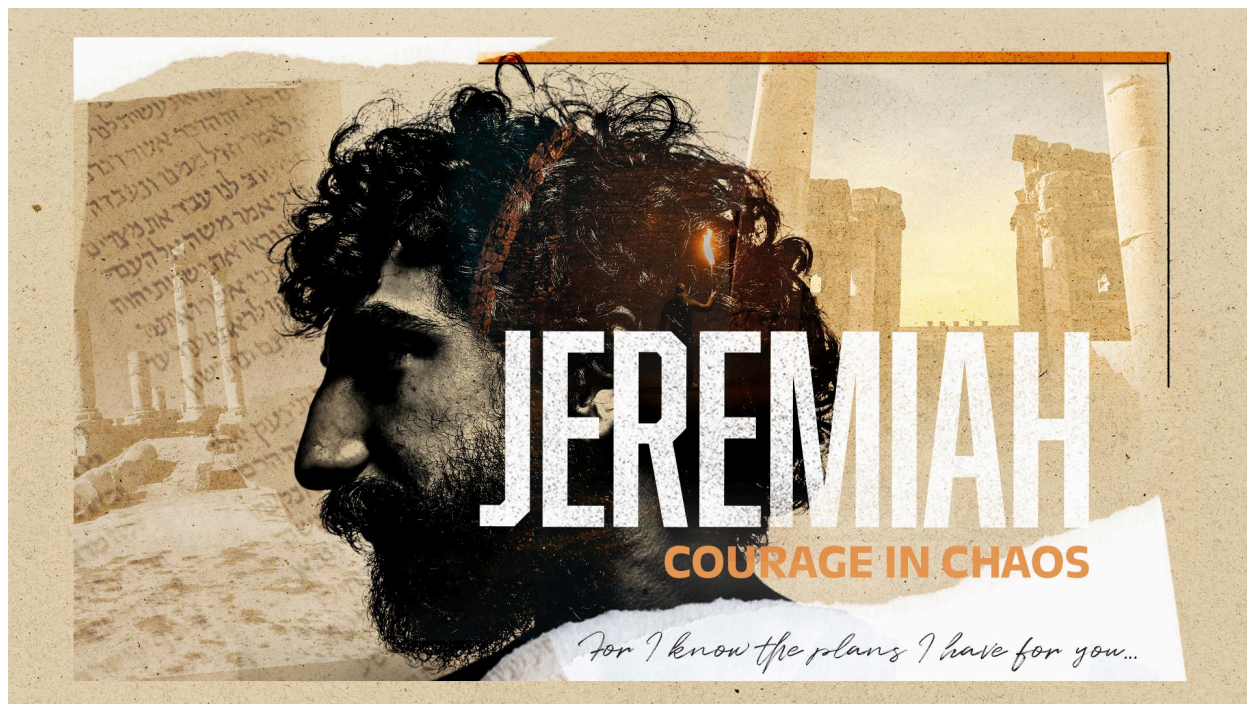
5. Worship in the Dark (20:11-13). Share what it is like for you to worship God and declare His truths despite how you may feel. Why is it important to do that?

6. Wish to Never have been Born (20:14-18). Notice that Job, Elijah, David, Paul, Charles Spurgeon, all had the desire to die. Paul even said, "*For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*" (Phil. 1:21). How does that thought hit you? Discuss.

B. Read Romans 8:31-37 and discuss the implications of the fact that you are loved by Jesus. God is for you, as proven by His Son, there is no charge against you, nothing can separate you from His love, and we are more than conquerors through Christ's love.

Application: Share how you can be praying for each other when it comes to your deeper emotions lived out in a faltering nation.

Jeremiah 20



Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Be Honest with Depression

I. The Beating (20:1-6)

"Now Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the Lord.

Jeremiah 1:10- "I have set you over nations to pluck up and to break down..."

Jeremiah 20:3-6

3 The next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The Lord does not call your name Pashhur, but Terror on Every Side. 4 For thus says the Lord: Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They shall fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. And I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon. He shall carry them captive to Babylon, and shall strike them down with the sword.

Jeremiah 20:3-6

5 Moreover, I will give all the wealth of the city, all its gains, all its prized belongings, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies, who shall plunder them and seize them and carry them to Babylon. 6 And you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house,

shall go into captivity. To Babylon you shall go, and there you shall die, and there you shall be buried, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied falsely.”

II. Experiencing Depression (20:7-18)

7 O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

Jeremiah 1:17-19

¹⁷ ...I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, ...¹⁹ They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you.

A. When it Feels like God has Wronged You

B. When Everyone Mocks You

C. When You Want to Quit (20:8-9)

8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. 9 If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

D. When Your Closest Friends Walk Away (20:10)

10 For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! “Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.”

E. When You Praise God in the Dark (20:11-13)

11 But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. 12 O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. 13 Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

F. When You Wish You Hadn't been Born (20:14-18)

14 Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed! 15 Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, “A son is born to you,” making him very glad. ... 18 Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?”

Romans 8:31-37

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us!

Big Idea: Be Honest with Depression

Psalm 38:9-11

⁹ O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰ My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off.

Psalm 10:1

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Psalm 42:3+5

³ My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?" ...

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

Psalm 6:6-7

⁶ I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.

⁷ My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

Psalm 139:11-12

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.