



Deciding to be Tenacious Under Fire (To Hold Fast and Be Determined)

August 17- 18, 2019

Text: Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, ***“I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name”*** But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.

Big Question: How much more can I take?

Big Thought: How much more abuse can I take? How many times have you said...? How much time have I invested? How much money have I spent? When will they decide to change?

Can You Relate To Jeremiah's Story?

I. Jeremiah Was Abused

Text: Jeremiah 20:1–2 (NKJV): 1 Now Pashhur the son of Immer, the priest who was also chief governor in the house of the Lord, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. 2 Then **Pashhur struck Jeremiah the prophet**, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the Lord.

Bible Knowledge Commentary Comments: He seized Jeremiah and had him beaten, or flogged with 40 lashes (cf. Deut. 25:2–3, Jeremiah 37:15). Then he put Jeremiah in the stocks for public ridicule. These stocks were located at the Upper Gate of Benjamin, the northern gate of the city. This was the first of several instances of open opposition against Jeremiah's ministry.

II. Jeremiah Prophesied to the Leader Who Abused Him

20:3-6 And it happened on the next day that Pashhur brought Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then **Jeremiah said to him**, “The Lord has not called your name Pashhur, but Magor-Missabib (or terror on every side).

1. He would suffer: v4 For thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, **I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends**; and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and your eyes shall see it. I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive to Babylon and slay them with the sword.

2. The city would suffer: v5 Moreover **I will deliver all the wealth of this city**, all its produce, and all its precious things; all the treasures of the kings of Judah I will give into the hand of their enemies, who will plunder them, seize them, and carry them to Babylon.

3. His family would suffer: v6 And you, Pashhur, and **all who dwell in your house, shall go into captivity**. You shall go to Babylon, and there you shall die, and be buried there, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied lies.’ ”



III. Jeremiah Struggled With His Calling to Speak Out

Jeremiah 20:7–9 (NKJV): 7 O Lord, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me.⁸ For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, “Violence and plunder! “Because the word of the Lord was made to me A reproach and a derision daily. 9 Then I said, **“I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.** “But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.

IV. Four Things That Impress Me About Jeremiah

1. His **passion** burned hotter than his fear (Heb.11:36 - 37, In the end, tradition says he was stoned to death)
2. His **acceptance** that some things would never change (Jeremiah 21:10, “It shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.”)
3. His **patience** with religious leaders (Jeremiah 20:1-2; Jeremiah 37:15, they beat him often)
4. His **deep concern** about the condition of his people, it shows up in his writing (Lamentation 1:2-3, NKJV)
 - v2“**She weeps bitterly** in the night, Her tears are on her cheeks; Among all of her lovers, She has none to comfort her. All her **friends dealt treacherously** with her; They have become her enemies. ”v3 Judah has gone into **captivity**, Under **affliction** and hard **servitude**; She dwells among the nations (*homeless*), She finds **no rest**; All her persecutors **overtake her** in dire straits.

Closing: How this applies to us? (This makes us review our relationship with God)

- Jeremiah 3:22, “Return you backsliding children, And I will heal your backslidings
- Jeremiah 4:1, “If you will return, O Israel,” says the Lord, Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of my sight, Then you shall not be moved.” (NKJV)

Next Time: Deciding What You Want

Matthew 20:20–28 (NKJV): 20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons **came to Him** with her sons, kneeling down and **asking something from Him.** 21 And He said to her, “**What do you wish?**” She said to Him, “**Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.**”

22 But Jesus answered and said, “**You do not know what you ask.** Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “**We are able.**”

23 So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is **not Mine to give**, but **it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.**”