

LESSON 11—May 16, 2021

Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:
Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant
Unit III: Courageous Prophets of Change

Lesson Titles:

The Consequences of Giving Challenging Advice
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)

Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher of Doom
(Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary)

Devotional Reading:
Jeremiah 38:7-13; 39:15-18

Background Scriptures:
Jeremiah 37-38

Print Passages:
Jeremiah 38:14-23

Key Verse(s):

Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me? (Jeremiah 38:15, KJV)

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Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "If I give you an answer, will you not kill me? Even if I did give you counsel, you would not listen to me." (Jeremiah 38:15, NIV)

► Questions to Consider:

1. Why did Zedekiah call for Jeremiah?
2. What was Jeremiah's message to Zedekiah?
3. Why was Zedekiah so fearful of surrendering to the Babylonians?
4. Why did Zedekiah reject the word of the Lord?

► Lesson Context:

- Jeremiah repeatedly appealed to the people of Judah to repent and escape God's coming judgment.
- Jeremiah's passionate calls for repentance from sin and return to God fell on deaf ears.
- The main theme of Jeremiah is judgment upon Judah for her apostasy and the promise of future restoration through God's grace and mercy.

► Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Identify Jeremiah's hesitation to give controversial advice to Zedekiah.
- Sense Jeremiah's apprehension when talking to Zedekiah.
- Commit to giving challenging godly advice.

► Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

I. A Prophet's Dilemma (Jeremiah 38:14-16)

Key Point 1: King Zedekiah had a question for Jeremiah and wanted him to be honest in his response.

Key Point 2: Zedekiah promised Jeremiah that he would not kill him or hand him over to those who were seeking to take his life.

II. A Prophet's Advice (Jeremiah 38:17-18)

Key Point 1: Jeremiah's message remained the same.

Key Point 2: Jeremiah did not compromise the word of the Lord and delivered it just as he had been instructed.

III. A Leader's Folly (Jeremiah 38:19-23)

Key Point 1: Zedekiah feared man more than God.

Key Point 2: Zedekiah refused to submit to the Word of God.

► Lesson Summary:

- God is still looking for men and women with the spirit of Jeremiah, persons who have the courage to speak His Word regardless of the consequences.
- Preachers, teachers, messengers of God are to deliver the word from God whether it is accepted or rejected, and regardless of any personal consequences. We are not to compromise the Word of God.
- As we read, study, and hear God's Word, we too should be encouraged not only to listen but to obey and respond in repentance and obedient faith.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. What is the right and wrong way to handle rejection for speaking God's truth?

2. In what ways do some Christians, preachers, teachers, and even some gospel songwriters water down or compromise God's Word?

3. Why do you think Zedekiah refused to take Jeremiah's counsel?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
