"JEREMIAH: Tears for God"

(The Weeping Prophet)

INTRODUCTION:

1) The impending doom of his people

Lam. 3:48-51
Jer. 9:1, 23:9

2) The hardships he faced

--forbidden to marry and have children (16:2)
--misunderstood and falsely accused (26:8-16)
--his message was burned (36:23-28)
--thrown into a dungeon (38:4-13)

How did Jeremiah remain so compassionate? What kept his heart so tender? Why didn't he quit?

I. Jeremiah was <u>SELECTED</u> by the <u>WILL</u> of God (1:5)

II. Jeremiah was <u>ENABLED</u> by the <u>STRENGTH</u> of God (1:6-10)

A. God promised Jeremiah His <u>direction</u> (v. 7, cp. 10:23)

B. God promised Jeremiah His <u>presence</u> (v. 8; cp. 20:10-11)

C. God promised Jeremiah His <u>power</u> (v. 9; cp. 10:19)

D. God promised Jeremiah His <u>position</u> (v. 10)

III. Jeremiah was <u>DEVOTED</u> to the <u>WORD</u> of God (15:16; 20:9)

He was a fearless preacher despite great opposition and a negative message.

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Lamentations 3:48-51
Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people. Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission, Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven. Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.

Jeremiah 9:1
Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jeremiah 23:9
Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.

2) The hardships he faced

--forbidden to marry and have children (16:2)

Jeremiah 16:2

Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.

--misunderstood and falsely accused (26:8-16)

Jeremiah 26:8-16

Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded *him* to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die. Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the princes of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king's house unto the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S *house*. Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man *is* worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears. Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you. As for me, behold, I *am* in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you. But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears. Then said the princes and all the people unto the priests and to the prophets; This man *is* not worthy to die: for he hath spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.

--his message was burned (36:23-28)

Jeremiah 36:23-28

And it came to pass, *that* when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast *it* into the fire that *was* on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that *was* on the hearth. Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, *neither* the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words. Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them. But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD hid them. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

--thrown into a dungeon (38:4-13)

Jeremiah 38:4-13

Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt. Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he *is* in your hand: for the king *is* not *he that* can do *any* thing against you. Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that *was* in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon *there was* no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire. Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin; Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying, My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for *there is* no more bread in the city. Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die. So Ebedmelech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah. And Ebedmelech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now *these* old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so. So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

How did Jeremiah remain so compassionate? What kept his heart so tender? Why didn't he quit?

I. Jeremiah was SELECTED by the WILL of God

(*Jeremiah 1:5*
Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.**)**

II. Jeremiah was ENABLED by the STRENGTH of God (1:6-10)

A. God promised Jeremiah His direction (v. 7, cp. 10:23)
Jeremiah 10:23
O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

B. God promised Jeremiah His presence (v. 8; cp. 20:10-11)
Jeremiah 20:10-11
For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, *say they*, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, *saying*, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. But the LORD *is* with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: *their* everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

C. God promised Jeremiah His power (v. 9; cp. 10:19)
Jeremiah 10:19
Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this *is* a grief, and I must bear it.

D. God promised Jeremiah His position (v. 10)

III. Jeremiah was <u>DEVOTED</u> to the <u>WORD</u> of God (15:16; 20:9)

Jeremiah 15:16

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Jeremiah 20:9

Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

He was a fearless preacher despite great opposition and a negative message.

CONCLUSION: