



Week #4: Overcoming Discouragement

When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the official in charge of the temple of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, ² he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the Lord's temple. ³ The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The Lord's name for you is not Pashhur, but Terror on Every Side. ⁴ For this is what the Lord says: 'I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; with your own eyes you will see them fall by the sword of their enemies. I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. ⁵ I will deliver all the wealth of this city into the hands of their enemies—all its products, all its valuables and all the treasures of the kings of Judah. They will take it away as plunder and carry it off to Babylon. ⁶ And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into exile to Babylon. There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies.'"

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.*

Jeremiah 20:1-13 (NIV)

- Doing God’s _____ doesn’t remove us from _____. (V 1-2)

How To Overcome Discouragement

- Be _____: tell _____ how you feel. (V 7-8)
- Be _____: keep doing what God has _____ you to. (V 9)
- Be _____: see how God is still _____ and with you. (V 10-11)
- Be _____: praise God in all _____. (V 12-13)

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on a time when you were obedient to God's call, yet faced significant challenges or opposition. How did you navigate that experience and what did you learn about the nature of discipleship and perseverance in doing God's will?
2. Jeremiah expresses deep anguish and frustration in this passage. Reflect on a recent moment of vulnerability with God and consider how this honesty affected your relationship with Him.
3. Despite his hardships, Jeremiah remains committed to his prophetic calling. What specific calling or mission has God placed on your heart?

4. Jeremiah transitions from lament to praise in verse 13. What practical steps can you take to incorporate praise and thanksgiving into your daily life, regardless of your situation?

Recommended Resources

- *The Deeply Formed Life: Five Transformative Values to Root Us in the Way of Jesus*, by Rich Villodas
- *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*, by Tish Harrison Warren
- *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times*, by Soong-Chan Rah
- *God Has a Name*, by John Mark Comer

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- Doing God's will doesn't remove us from trouble. (V 1-2)

How To Overcome Discouragement

- Be honest: tell God how you feel. (V 7-8)
- Be faithful: keep doing what God has called you to. (V 9)
- Be watchful: see how God is still working and with you. (V 10-11)
- Be worshipful: praise God in all circumstances. (V 12-13)

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