



**“Get In Good
Trouble,
Necessary
Trouble!”**

Jeremiah 12:5-6

Observations

- ▶ This phrase most recently entered our lexicon, popularized by the late U.S. Representative John Lewis of Georgia, encouraging African-Americans and our sympathizers to expect and embrace the difficulties that naturally will come in the fight for racial equality
- ▶ Isaiah the prophet was affected by a similar charge from God—that we should expect and embrace difficulties as we run the race that is set before us
- ▶ May God bless us today to understand the challenge he gives His people, whom He wants to love Him, serve Him, and receive His blessings

Here is a Dialog Between Jeremiah and God with Which We Identify!

“You are righteous, Lord, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice (but I do have a complaint): Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease (why do bad people have it so good)?

You have planted them, and they have taken root: they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts.”

Jeremiah 12:1-4 (N.I.V)

Jeremiah 12:1-4

“Yet you know me, Lord; you see me and test my thoughts about you (you don’t let me get away with a thing). Drag them off like sheep to be butchered (make them pay for the way they live). Set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered (how long do we in society have to put up with sin? The world is worse and worse)

... Moreover, the people are saying, He will not see what happens to us (looks like, in the end, God doesn’t care either way you live).

Observations

- ▶ I think that we can identify with Jeremiah's complaints before God
- ▶ Sometimes it seems that people who live the Christian life work hard consistently; but we still feel like those who work for the love of the world and for the world's pleasures and for themselves get about the same thing
- ▶ God, we have the same stress, same bills, same illnesses, same houses, same neighborhoods; but not the same amount of sin, and so the world is worse
- ▶ Therefore Lord, just get rid of the evil folks in society, and the world will be a better place to live (from the top, down) If people reap what they sow.....?

God Answers Jeremiah With an Analogy, and Explains It

“If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses?”

If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan? Your relatives, members of your own family—even they have betrayed you; they have raised a loud cry against you. Do not trust them though they speak well of you.”

#1 God Reminds Jeremiah of His Purpose in Life!

- ▶ God reminds Jeremiah that life is not about what you see happening or want to happen. It's about handling "Trouble, Necessary Trouble" (God is using you and me to handle trouble)
- ▶ We have been told "in church" that God's sole desire is that we have a "happy life." This is Not sound theology
- ▶ Our purpose in life is to glorify God (put God on display) in whatever circumstance (trouble) we find ourselves, Matt. 5:16 ; Trouble is a "given" in this world, John 16:33

- ▶ Our challenge is to serve God wherever He places us and follow Him no matter the cost. Remember, we are God's "ambassadors."
2 Corinthians 5:20
- ▶ One of our roles in life is to show people how to do "trouble!" (anger, forgiveness, disappointment, rejection, stress, illnesses, circumstances, pandemics, epidemics, D.W.B.)
- ▶ Jeremiah, don't listen to the haters and doubters in your family or your friendship circle. *Matt. 19:29, "Everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife...will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."*



#2 God Reminds Jeremiah That Life Will Have Its “Necessary Troubles!”

- ▶ Challenges should make us better, not bitter. Romans 5:3, *“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation...”* 2 Corinthians 12:9, *“... gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*
- ▶ Challenging mentors are the ones we admire later (Holland, Rentschler, Nance, Moses, Barnes, Hughes, Krueger)
- ▶ The “easy path,” however, is the one that we learn to love, because it’s filled with pleasure and comfort (Easy Majors in College, Rocks vs Eagles; Cheating vs. Commitment)

YOU DON'T BUILD CHARACTER AS A SPECTATOR!

***1 Peter 5:1 Peter appeals to his audience as an elder
and witness of Christ's sufferings!***

#3 God Reminds Us That He Knows How We Feel Sometimes



“They will sow wheat but reap thorns; they will wear themselves out but gain nothing. They will bear the shame of their harvest because of the Lord’s fierce anger.” Jeremiah 12:13

- ▶ God says, “I know how it feels when the people you care about won’t listen to you (you give them opportunities and they don’t follow instructions).”
- ▶ “Trouble can enhance maturity”
- ▶ There is no need for us to “whine” about our lives like Jeremiah was doing. God “dwelt among us.” He knows what life is like; John 1:14; Hebrews 4:15-16



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Hebrews 11:6

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38