

FIRE IN MY BONES

Jeremiah 20:7-9

INTRODUCTION

- A. Lady walking out of worship one evening.
 - 1. Had participated throughout worship, encouraging with “amen”.
 - 2. As she left, “Are we just afraid to be excited?”
- B. We just don’t understand the church today.
- C. Is Christianity just a Sunday stroll? Philippians 1:21
 - 1. Is this all there is to life as a Christian?
 - 2. Is this all that Christ died for?

I. THE REAL THING.

- A. Companies spend millions daily to convince the public their product is best.
 - 1. Yamaha – “The way it should be.”
 - 2. State Farm – “Like a good neighbor...”
 - 3. Wendy’s – “It’s better here.”
 - 4. Hallmark – “When you care to send the very best.”
 - 5. CocaCola – “It’s the real thing.” (1990)
 - a. What if we believed in the Lord to make our lives the real thing?
- B. It was true once.
 - 1. There was a generation excited over a life filled with a “new man”.
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:3-9
 - a. New birth.
 - b. Living hope.
 - c. Inheritance, never perish, spoil or fade.
 - d. Shielded by God’s power.
 - e. Greatly rejoice.
 - f. Faith greater worth than gold.
 - g. Inexpressible and glorious joy.
 - 3. Acts 4:13 – uneducated and untrained.
- C. Does this sound out of place today?
 - 1. Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same...
 - 2. So, what is missing?
- D. A lack of spiritual commitment.
 - 1. Alarming numbers of Christians with no spiritual commitment.
 - 2. Numbers of Christians are spiritually incapable of coping with any crises.
 - a. Faith seems to be built around church attendance.
 - b. Christians today seem to live in fear, depression, and anxiety.
- E. How can the same Savior influence one Christian to become involved, but another to produce nothing but apathy?
 - 1. Perhaps through a brief look at the life of Jeremiah, we may remind ourselves of the need to fan into flames...the spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline, 2 Tim. 1:6-7.

II. JEREMIAH’S MISSION.

- A. The mission of Jeremiah to Judah.
 - 1. Jeremiah 7:1-11.
 - a. Protection in the temple.
 - b. Live as we please all the other times.
 - 2. Jeremiah’s mission – “God will no longer overlook your sin. You are not God’s

people. A pagan enemy will destroy this city..." Jer. 3:8-10, 12-15; 4:4-8.

- B. What reaction would a man receive today with a similar message?
 - 1. Laughed at, mocked, abused?

III. JEREMIAH'S PREDICAMENT.

- A. Problems Jeremiah Faced, Jer. 20:7-10
 - 1. Hated and ignored, and few took him seriously. The message became a burden because of its truth.
 - 2. A continual laughingstock. Jeremiah would rather avoid the situation.
 - 3. Mocked. The message created pain and humiliation.
 - 4. The message itself became a reproach. People did not want to hear God's Word, 6:17.
 - 5. There were attempts to scare Jeremiah into silence. He was threatened by the king, counselors, and aristocrats, 20:2; 26:8-11.
 - 6. Even his friends would denounce him. He was accused of preaching the same old sermon and they tried to convince him he was wrong, 11:19, 21; 12:6.
- B. Truth of the Prophecy.
 - 1. Jeremiah knows the prophecy is true.
 - 2. He endured all because of the message.
 - 3. Jeremiah 20:14, "...cursed be the day..."
- C. Why Continue Prophesying?
 - 1. God persuaded him, Jer. 20:7.
 - 2. God was stronger than he was, Jer. 20:7.
 - 3. There was a fire in his bones, Jer. 20:9.

IV. OUR ENTHUSIASM TODAY.

- A. Sometimes Wonders.
 - 1. Moses, Num. 11:11.
 - 2. Elijah, 1 Kings 19:4, 11-18 (esp. v. 14).
 - 3. John the Baptist, Matthew 11:3.
- B. Must be Convinced.
 - 1. Peter, Acts 4:20.
 - 2. Paul, Acts 17:6; 18:5; 1 Cor. 9:16.
- C. Fire in Our Bones.
 - 1. Knowledge of sin and result, Genesis 3; Isa. 59:2.
 - 2. Knowledge of the gospel of Christ.
 - a. The answer to sin.
 - b. Acts 2:23-24, 32-33, 36, 38
 - 3. Knowledge of Christ, our Savior.

V. A BENEFICIAL FIRE.

- A. We should pray for fire in our bones.
 - 1. Pray that our desire for knowledge and understanding of God's Word become such a fire.
 - 2. Pray that our concern for people, for their needs and for their salvation become a fire in our bones.
 - 3. Pray that our commitment to moral practices and ethical principles become a fire in our bones.
 - 4. Pray that our acceptance of our responsibility to use ourselves for the good of the Lord become a fire in our bones.