

## Outline

### ## I. Introduction

- Reflection on summer break and thanks to Elders
- Preparation for upcoming Philippians series
- Recap of summer camp with teenagers
- Introduction to Jeremiah as the "Weeping Prophet"

### ## II. Understanding Jeremiah's Context

- Known as the "Weeping Prophet" due to his broken heart over Israel
- Model of fierce faithfulness to truth combined with deep compassion
- Central question: What would it mean to "weep with God" over our culture?

### ## III. The Character of Jeremiah

- A man whose eyes were red from weeping
- Lived with awareness of coming judgment
- Felt the collision between God's holiness and people's hardness of heart
- Ministry spanned 40 years (627-582 BC)
- Results: resistance, ridicule, rejection, but never revival

### ## IV. Big Idea Statement

God is calling us to carry His Word in our mouths and His tears in our eyes—confronting and weeping over the lostness of our culture

### ## V. Jeremiah's Calling (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

#### ### A. God's Initiative

- Ministry begins with God's initiative, not human plans
- God formed Jeremiah before birth with purpose
- God knew Jeremiah personally and relationally

### ### B. God's Purpose

- Six powerful verbs: pluck up, break down, destroy, overthrow, build, plant
- Four verbs of tearing down, two of building up
- Judgment and mercy working together

### ### C. Jeremiah's Objection

- "I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth"
- Common human response to difficult callings

### ### D. God's Response

- "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you"
- Promise of presence, not continuous peace

## ## VI. Jeremiah's Tears (Jeremiah 8:18-9:2; 13:17)

### ### A. The Language of Grief

- "My grief is beyond healing"
- "A fountain of tears"—continuous, sustained emotional posture
- Weeping in secret while being mocked in public

### ### B. The Source of Tears

- Not self-pity but covenant grief
- Weeping over what culture does to God and itself

- Root disease: pride and cultural arrogance

### ### C. Challenge to Modern Believers

- Are we irritated, superior, indifferent, or genuinely grieved?
- Do we experience God-centered sorrow for our nation?

## ## VII. God's Heart Revealed

### ### A. Ambiguity Between Jeremiah and God

- Difficult to distinguish between Jeremiah's tears and God's tears
- Jeremiah's heart aligned with God's heart
- God Himself weeps over His people

### ### B. God's Character

- Not only angry and judgmental
- God who laments
- Wrath as response to what destroys people He loves

### ### C. Jesus as Fulfillment

- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
- Jeremiah foreshadows the weeping Savior

## ## VIII. Cultural Parallels

### ### A. Religious Performance Without Repentance

- Temple worship while oppressing the poor
- False peace proclaimed to those who despise the Lord

### ### B. Political Anxiety

- Looming threats and shifting alliances
- National identity crisis

### ### C. Jeremiah's Faithful Response

- Patriotic yet brutally honest
- Loving culture from the margins
- No guarantee of immediate change

## ## IX. The Third Way

### ### A. Avoiding Two Caricatures

- Harsh truth-tellers with no tears
- Sentimental empathizers with no backbone

### ### B. Jeremiah's Model

- Soft hearts, firm spines, tear-filled eyes
- Uncompromising in truth
- Unshakably compassionate

## ## X. Three Practical Applications

### ### A. Weep in Private Before Speaking in Public

- Secret weeping precedes public proclamation
- Speak about people we have wept for
- Before posting or arguing, ask: "Have I wept in secret over this?"

### ### B. Maintain Both Clarity and Hope

- Clear-eyed about judgment and sin
- Relentlessly hopeful about God's future
- Avoid cynicism and naivety

### ### C. Move From Emotion to Love

- Jeremiah acted on his feelings
- Prophetic signs and practical instructions
- Concrete acts of love: mentoring, volunteering, opening homes

### ## XI. Conclusion and Invitation

- God seeks people who carry His Word and His tears
- Refuse both withdrawal and compromise
- Stand in the middle with broken hearts and open Bibles

### ## XII. Life-Change Challenge

1. One hour of hidden weeping over community
2. One act of genuine compassion for someone hurting
3. One honest spiritual conversation about Jesus