

Look up - Jeremiah 12:1-5
(S494a)

Port Garry United Church, Feb 14 1954 11 AM

Jer -
1:4-19
8:18 -
9:16

God Acts In History: Jeremiah.

Give Ear to Jeremiah.... Against the background of the other three.. God In History..

Preaching reveals a new understanding..

Having heard him.. new

yet incipient from beginn

reveals a new understanding of God who judges...

A H I not the whole truth.....

Encounter... heard more....

meet not just a prophet.. but a man..

"one of us"

Lonely

Turncoat

Heartache

The Man

Long life during series of crises and hopes

Priestly family at Anathoth.. Joined reform

movement (Conscience cost him something)

& disillusionment.

Broke with family

Spurned by people, mocked, traitor.

At least two plots against his life

once in the stocks

once in prison for defying the king

Had a faithful biographer BARUCH.

The Nation

Saw Juda Collapse. Country and rulers become more

and more corrupt in spite of brief reform under

Josiah. Legislative attack that accomplished nothing.

Persistent complacency because of election.

Wavering foreign policy during the rise of Babylon.

After two very close calls. Jerusalem fell

End of Kingdom. Final Exile. Zedekiah saw

his sons slain before his eyes were put out.

Jeremiah Prophet of doom. Against the unshakeable complacency..

Combination of all the prophets.

Like Amos - Social Forces. concern for poor

Like Hosea - False Religion disintegrating.

Like Isaiah... weakness of unpredictable foreign policy.

Like Them: Attacked the concerns and aspirations of the people that did not bring security

"Is Not the Lord in Zion?

Is Not Her King In Her?

Reply... The Harvest is past, The summer is over and we are not saved....

(All we need to do is produce..... *High standard of living*)

(Why Pray? we haven't had a crop failure in years.

Like them he attacked a complacency :

How can you say "We are wise" and the law of the Lord is with us?

When lo the lying pen of the scribes has turned it into a lie!

So the wise shall be abashed, they shall be dumbfounded and taken.

For lo they have spurned the word of the Lord, and what wisdom then have they?

Therefore I will give their wives to others, their fields to the conquerors.

Because from the least to the greatest of them each one traffics in ill gotten gain.

From Prophet to priest each one deals in falsehood.

The wound of the daughter of my people they lightly heal

Saying "All is well, All is well" when naught is well."

(Everything is all right, look what it got us... just have confidence... —

as though God would bless without judging.

We had with our wisdom reached where we no longer need God. to learn from him...

Castigates this false confidence.. really a way of playing God.

"To everyone who follows the stubborn promptings of their own mind they say "No harm shall come to you"... "I didn't send them but they ran"

man's As ~~the~~ the right place for confidence the prophetic message is summed up in the words...

S494c

3.

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
Nor the strong man boast of his strength,
nor the rich man boast of his riches
But if one must boast, let him boast of this..
That he understands and knows me.

For I the Lord am he who practices kindness -
Justice and righteousness on the earth.
For in these things do I delight.

Is the oracle of the Lord."

~~UNIQUE..~~ UNIQUE..

Upon disillusionment with legalistic reform under
Josiah

"Behold the days are coming, is the oracle of the Lord
when I will make a new covenant with the house of
Israel, and with the house of Judah, not like the
covenant which I made with their fathers on the day
that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the
land of Egypt. - that covenant of mine which they
broke, so that I had to reject them- but this covenant
which I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, is the oracle of the Lord.- I will put my law
within them and will write it on their hearts, and
I will be their God and they shall be my people.

~~also Unique~~

Judgement in Love..

Love for the people whose sin he denounces so
mercilessly..

As he prophesied Israel's doom his heart bled.
"O that I had in the desert a travellers' inn,
that I might leave my people and be quit of them
For they are all adulterers a company of traitors
They stretch their tongues like a treacherous bow
And not in the interest of truth have they grown
strong in the land

For they go on from crime to crime and me they know not
is the oracle of the Lord

For the wound of the daughter of my people I am
wounded with grief

I walk in mourning, horror has siezed me
Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician
there?

(S494d)

4.

Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?
O that my Head were waters and my eyes a fountain of tears
That I may weep day and night for the Daughter of my people.

Personal element in the encounter with God

Not until Jesus are we going to see religion in such personal terms...

Previous. social and national...

Encounter, sense of call (began even before he was born) doubt that he had been called at all... turmoil personal.

People didn't listen... mocked
persecuted

Predicted things that didn't come to pass..
(seethians)

"Thou hast duped me O Lord, and I let myself be duped
I have become a laughing stock all the day long
Everyone mocks me.
As often as I speak I must cry out..."Violence and
spoil"

Has he been called?... Is God With Him? ...

"Cursed be the day on which I was born,
The day on which my mother bore me.
Let it not be blessed!
Cursed be the man which brought the good news to my
father "A son is born to you!"
Let that man be like the cities which the Lord
overthrew without mercy.
Why came I out of the womb to see trouble and
sorrow,
That my days might be spent in shame?.. "

Yet he can't lay the mantle down.. he can't quit..

" For the Word of the Lord has become to me a
reproach and a derision all day long..
If I say "I will not think of it Nor speak any
more in his name"

It is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones, I am worn out with holding it in. I cannot indure it.
The Lord is with me like a dreaded warrior."

In this turmoil he is confronted with one of faith's supreme dilemma's (one the previous prophets don't seem to be as aware of) - Job - ~~Dea~~ - 127
"Why does the way of the wicked prosper?"
God's providence... doesn't appear to reward the righteous....

Read Jer 12: 1-4

Reply: Just worship me... everything will be all right..
wait... bundle of roses..
Have patience.. struggle will be all over
HE DOES NOT.

Read Jer 12: 5.

Are you discouraged? wait.. Things are going to get really tough..
Bigger tasks ahead
MORE courage is going to be needed...

Living Word of God every one's ken here..
Taken just about all life can give..
Meet God... Bombproof job...?
greater struggles.. courage to face them..

Have ears to hear that reply of God to Jeremiah

"IF YOU HAVE RACED WITH MEN ON FOOT AND THEY HAVE BEATEN YOU... HOW WILL YOU COMPETE WITH HORSES?"