

DAVID REYNOLDS

Communication and High School Pastor

HONEST
Jeremiah 20

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the official in charge of the temple of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things,

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

2 he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the Lord's temple.

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

3 The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The Lord's name for you is not Pashhur,

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

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;

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

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,

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword.

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

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

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

the kings of Judah. They will take it away
as plunder and carry it off to Babylon.

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

6 And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into exile to Babylon.

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies."

JEREMIAH 20:1-6 (NIV)

There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies."

1

Jeremiah, the discouraged prophet

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

7 You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me.

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

8 Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction.

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

So the word of the Lord has brought me insult
and reproach all day long.

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

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.

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

10 I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!
Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"

JEREMIAH 20:7-10 (NIV)

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."

1

a. **Lost confidence in his calling**

MATTHEW 27:46 (NIV)

"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

(which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")."

STEVE SMITH

"Since Jesus was without sin, we can conclude that there is a difference between the sin of self pity

STEVE SMITH

and a genuine self-awareness of the situation."

JEREMIAH 20:8 (NIV)

8 Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction.

JEREMIAH 20:8 (NIV)

So the word of the Lord has brought me insult
and reproach all day long.

JEREMIAH 20:10 (NIV)

10 I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!
Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"

JEREMIAH 20:10 (NIV)

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."

1

b. **Felt abandoned and attacked because of his message**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Is there someone you have been sharing the gospel with that continues to ignore it? How might this be affecting your relationship with God?

1

c. Wanted to leave his calling, but his call wouldn't leave him.

JEREMIAH 20:9 (NIV)

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.

JEREMIAH 20:9 (NIV)

I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

1

c. Wanted to leave his calling, but his call wouldn't leave him.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Have you ever felt like Jeremiah feels in this passage?

JEREMIAH 20:11-13 (NIV)

11 But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.

JEREMIAH 20:11-13 (NIV)

They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

JEREMIAH 20:11-13 (NIV)

**12 Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,**

JEREMIAH 20:11-13 (NIV)

let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

JEREMIAH 20:11-13 (NIV)

**13 Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord!
He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.**

2

God is our warrior.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Is there any cause that you need to commit to the Lord today?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Is there something that you have been holding onto that the Lord wants to take and fight on your behalf?

STEVE SMITH

"If Jeremiah were to journal this privately then tear it out and throw it away, something would be lost."

STEVE SMITH

This passage is not whispered, it is screamed.

STEVE SMITH

With the same voice that called for repentance,
the custom made prophet yells out to God.

STEVE SMITH

In the end, he was not just complaining:
he was counseling himself."

3

Honesty before God counsels

STEVE SMITH

"There is strength in honesty. But the strength is not ours,
it is His. He is on the other side of honesty.

STEVE SMITH

The question is, "Are we willing enough to follow him there?
It's as scary as it is real."

JEREMIAH 20:14-18 (NIV)

14 Cursed be the day I was born!

May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!

JEREMIAH 20:14-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought my father the news,
who made him very glad, saying, "A child is born to you—a son!"

JEREMIAH 20:14-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ May that man be like the towns the Lord overthrew without pity.
May he hear wailing in the morning, a battle cry at noon.

JEREMIAH 20:14-18 (NIV)

17 For he did not kill me in the womb, with my mother as my grave,
her womb enlarged forever.

JEREMIAH 20:14-18 (NIV)

¹⁸ Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?

JERRY HWANG

"Together with Lamentations, Jeremiah 20 furnishes an outstanding reminder that praise and lament are not mutually exclusive,

JERRY HWANG

nor are they even different points along the same faith journey.

JERRY HWANG

Instead, they can often be simultaneous and intense experiences in the believers life that each needs space to meander

JERRY HWANG

rather than being forced into a linear progression
of what faithfulness to God is expected to be.

JERRY HWANG

The prophet Jeremiah exemplifies how the paradox of living honestly between pain and promise is an essential step

JERRY HWANG

in the journey of recovering from brokenness."