SMALL GROUP STUDY

Jeremiah - The Tender Warrior

Jeremiah had a 40 year ministry that spanned the ruling of 5 kings. He was a tough but tender prophet who had a very tough job--for every prophecy he gave, he had several false prophets who would say just the opposite. Over his 4 decade ministry, not one person was converted. However, his prophecies would later be read by the nation and give hope and renewed faith in God to them.

Jeremiah's Preparation Formulated (1)

Jeremiah was a youth when God first called him. God told him not to even worry about the people and assured him that He would equip him and that he need not fear. He was God's spokesperson though he did not see any results during his ministry. He kept his eyes focused on God despite the circumstances that surrounded him.

Discussion Questions:

a. When did God first know Jeremiah? What is the scripture reference?
b. Consider your life: When did you first hear God's call on your life? How has He equipped you for your calling? What obstacles have you faced in completing your mission?

Proclamations of Jeremiah Foretold (2-51)

The people were charged with committing evil--they forsook the Lord. Jeremiah bid them to return to the Lord; and, the nation did experience a brief reform during the rule of King Josiah. However it did not last, it was only an emotional eruption without lasting results. The politicians and the false prophets lied to the people saying, "Peace, Peace" when there was a no peace. In contrast, Jeremiah preached in the temple--telling the people not to trust in their works, their minds, their money or their might--to trust only in God. They did not heed his warning and he prophesied against them. Consequently, they were broken like a clay pot smashed on the floor. Jeremiah is arrested and he quits the ministry. However, the word of the Lord could not be shut up and it burned in his heart. He writes a letter to the people which they did not read it until years later during their captivity in Babylon.

Discussion Questions:

a. Examine your heart: Do you really worship and love the Lord? Do you have a personal relationship? Or, do you trust in your own "works"?
b. What parallels do you find in Israel's behavior and America today?
c. Why did God allow the nation to be taken captive by Babylon?
d. What did the letter to the people urge them to do?

Predictions of Jeremiah Fulfilled (52)

This last chapter is an historical supplement; it recalls all that Jeremiah has predicted.

Discussion Questions:

a. What city in the Bible is mentioned more than any other city? What is the second most mentioned city?
b. Examine your heart: have you forgotten your first love? What can you do today to restore that relationship with the Lord?