

Be Successful!  
Lessons from the life of Jeremiah  
September 6 & 7, 2008

**1. God has a detailed plan for your life.**

*The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*

*Jeremiah chapter 1, verses 4-5 (570)*

- "I formed you"- *"you made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb" Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex"*  
*Psalm chapter 139, verse 13-14 (476)*
- "I knew you"- *"O Lord you have examined my heart and know everything about me."*  
*Psalm chapter 139, verse 1 (476)*
- "I set you apart"- *"Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Psalm chapter 139, verse 16 (476)*

- All of God's creation is proof of his attention to detail. My life included.
- I am intensely valuable to God
- The details of my life matter to God.
- His plan for me is not a mystery.
- Do I invite God into the details?
- Life is about getting involved with what God is doing not getting God involved with what I am doing.

**\*\*\*Success is knowing and living God's plan for my life.\*\*\***

**2. I can't experience God's plan unless I trust him with my life?**

*"I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah chapter 1, verse 5 (570)*

- ✓ I have to believe that God's plan is better than my plan.- Do I fully trust God?
- ✓ Jeremiah was born a priest not a prophet *"These are the words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests from the town of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin."*  
*Jeremiah chapter 1, verse 1.*
- ✓ It's about surrendering my desires for God's desires.
- ✓ It's about exchanging my life for the life that Christ has secured for me.

*"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*

*Jeremiah chapter 2, verse 13 (571)*

Jesus said it this way, *"If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me you will find it. Matthew chapter 10, verse 39(741)*

**3. God's plan is neither safe nor easy.**

Tell them all this, but do not expect them to listen. Shout out your warnings but do not expect them to respond. when you call to them, they will not answer.

*Jeremiah chapter 7, verse 27 (578)*

- ✓ **never allowed to be married-** chapter 16, verse 2 (586)
- ✓ **mocked and ridiculed-** chapter 20, verse 7 (589)
- ✓ **death threats-** chapter 20, verse 10 (589)
- ✓ **rejection and condemnation-** chapter 26, verse 11 (594)
- ✓ **beatings and persecution-** chapter 37, verse 15 (604)

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, his compassions never fail.*

*Lamentations chapter 3, verse 22 (733)*

- Outside of God's plan the difficulties of life bring fear and anxiety.
- Inside God's plan the difficulties of life are accompanied by God's peace and joy.
- Which plan do you want when life gets hard?

#### **4. God's power works best with his plan.**

"O sovereign Lord," I said, "I can't speak for you I am too young!"

*Jeremiah chapter 1, verse 6 (570)*

- ✓ "Don't say I am too young"- God's power overcomes inadequacy
- ✓ "Don't be afraid of the people"- God is bigger than people
- ✓ With responsibility God gives ability.

"for I will be with you and will protect you. I the Lord have spoken!" Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look I have put my words in your mouth!"

*Jeremiah chapter 1, verses 8-9 (570)*

But if I say I never mention the Lord or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!

*Jeremiah chapter 20, verse 9 (589)*

\*\*\*Weak people do great things when they do them for and with God.\*\*\*

#### **5. With God there is always an open invitation to his plan.**

*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.*

*Jeremiah chapter 33, verse 3 (NIV)*

*I will cleanse them of their sins against me and forgive all their sins of rebellion.*

*Jeremiah chapter 33, verse 8 (601)*

- *God redeems my failures.*
- *God will always give second chances- Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh every morning. Lamentations chapter 3, verse 23 (624)*
- *"And I will forgive their wickedness and I will never again remember their sins"*  
*Jeremiah chapter 31, verse 34 (599)*