

The River Church

50/50 Bible Study Challenge - Week 22

Jeremiah Chapter 38

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 38:17 "So Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD God of armies, the God of Israel says: 'If you will indeed surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, then [fn]you will live, this city will not be burned with fire, and you and your household will survive.

Talking Points:

Verses 1-4:

What was the difference between Jeremiah's focus and the focus of the men in verse 4?

The men view the coming destruction as worrisome and harmful to the people. Is God causing harm through this destruction? Are the men missing the point?

How do we fall into this same mindset today?

Verses 5-13:

How is King Zedekiah's response to these men similar to Pontius Pilate in Matt 27:24?

Now that Jeremiah is in the dungeon his ability to speak to others is gone. Without this he cannot "spread fear or cause harm" Was Jeremiah's true strength his influence? Or was it something else?

Where do we source our strength? Is it in our own ability to influence?

How well do we handle the power of our words today? How could we do better?

Verses 14-18

What Motivated King Zedekiah to remove Jeremiah from the dungeon?

Jeremiah tells the king that to save the city he must surrender it. What is actually happening by surrendering to the oppressors?

Is the significance in God's use of a wicked nation to punish his people, or is it in the obedience of surrender required by his people?

Verses 19-24

What or Who is Zedekiah really afraid of in this chapter?

How well does Zedekiah balance his role as king and his role as "in covenant" with God?

What do you see as Zedekiah's real problem?

Verses 25-28

Why would the princes in verse 25 be fearful of Jeremiah's words?

Would we be fearful of these words if we were in their shoes?

What is the balance of surrender to God and influence over others that we can learn from this chapter?