
Day 219 - August 7

Judah After Israel's Fall (725-585 BCE)

Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll

Readings: *Jeremiah 36:1-32, 45:1-5*

Reflections:

- This account of Jeremiah's prophecies being written down with the help of Baruch, read aloud at the temple, burned by Jehoiakim and finally rewritten is in once sense a pretty simple story. Yet it contains a number of transferable lessons for Christ-followers.
- First, we learn from this story that God wants us to not just hear his words but to make sure we capture them so that we can be constantly reminded of what he has said. This takes us back to the previous command of God to Habakkuk for him to write down the prophecy God was giving so that the message could be carried into different situations.
- Second, faithfully capturing all that God says can mean a lot of work. It isn't easy making any relationship top priority. It takes effort to be faithful to listen to God, capture what he says and then to walk it out humbly. Jesus spends a lot of time simply listening and being with his Father. Jeremiah no doubt spent a lot of time dictating this entire book. Investing in God though is well worth the effort as God rewards those who serve him faithfully by doing immeasurable more than all we could ever ask or imagine.
- Third, Baruch reminds us that God uses people in partnership. Jeremiah needed the help of Baruch. They had to work together to complete God's will. Again this is a great reminder for those of us who like to be lone rangers. God gave Jeremiah the words but he gave Baruch the skill to capture it and write it down. Jesus would not write anything down but his disciples would. The apostle Paul would also use a scribe at times to help him write his letters. God designs his kingdom work so that we have to partner together so that everyone is a part of that shared relationship of being in God's family and mission.
- Fourth, Jehoiakim reminds us that some people simply are completely opposed to God. His methodical and arrogant burning of the prophecies ("without fear or tearing of their clothes" – symbol of repentance) reveals how rebellious and hard hearted he is. We need to be warned about this. What has God said to us? Are we responding with humble obedience to his word, even if it seems crazy or difficult? Do we value God more than anything else?
- Lastly, Jeremiah and Baruch having to write it all out again reminds us that sometime making sure the right thing happens takes double the effort. When people oppose the

purposes of God, sometimes it takes us doing things two or three times before it ultimately sticks. We are reminded that faith enables us to keep at things until we see the results that God wants. Persistent, relentless, unyielding, unmovable...these are the qualities of faith at work in our lives. God deserves nothing less.