

Week Four: Set Apart (Jeremiah)

OPENING

- Describe a time when you felt like you were being persecuted for something you believed in. How did it make you feel?
- Background: Read Jeremiah 1:1-10 as an intro.
Note: Jeremiah is known as “The Weeping Prophet” because of the constant persecution he received for prophesying the nation of Judah’s downfall if the people did not repent and listen to the Lord.
- Read today’s passage— Jeremiah 15:15-21.

STUDY:

- What do we learn about Jeremiah’s circumstances from his prayer in verses 15-18? What feelings is he expressing?
- In verses 19-21, how does God deal with Jeremiah’s requests and concerns?
- How is the Lord both truthful and tender with Jeremiah in this response?
- Looking at the whole passage now, what words and images are used to describe the places of loneliness for Jeremiah.
- Why might the kind of life in which God called Jeremiah have been particularly fraught with loneliness?
- What places in your life and witness as a Christian believer are particularly prone to loneliness (at work, school, family, or other)? Why?
- What tends to feel “unfair” about it for you?
- Which of the Lord’s words to Jeremiah here help bring comfort to you and why?

PRAY:

- Pray as a group lifting up your particular situations of persecution and loneliness to the Lord who hears, understands, and rescues.

Jeremiah 15:15-21

15 *Lord, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.
You are long-suffering—do not take me
away;
think of how I suffer reproach for
your sake.*

16 *When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart’s
delight,
for I bear your name,
Lord God Almighty.*

17 *I never sat in the company of
revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on
me
and you had filled me with
indignation.*

18 *Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and
incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.*

19 *Therefore this is what the Lord says:*

*“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless,
words,
you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.*

20 *I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the Lord.*

21 *“I will save you from the hands of
the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the
cruel.”*