

Jeremiah: the Suffering Preacher

Truth or Silence ?

Introduction

Should I expose the truth or should I remain silent? In today's lesson, the prophet Jeremiah faces this dilemma when confronted by the weak and evil king Zedekiah. Jeremiah's subsequent actions remind us to boldly stand for the Lord - even when facing dire consequences.

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Identify** Jeremiah's hesitation to give controversial advice to Zedekiah
- **Sense** Jeremiah's apprehension when talking to Zedekiah
- **Commit** to giving challenging godly advice

Scripture

Jeremiah 38:14-23 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Jeremiah 38:7-13; 39:15-18 (KJV)

About Today's Lesson...

Crucial conversations - the deliverance of tough messages that are often necessary to help maintain healthy relationships. Many people shy away from delivering tough messages for fear of rejection or other forms of retribution. So how can we boldly step up and speak our minds in a way that minimizes or eliminates the chances of others becoming defensive or of going into silence ? Additionally, how can we expose God's truth to others knowing all too well the probable consequences of our actions ?

In today's passage of scripture, the prophet Jeremiah is summoned by king Zedekiah and is then engaged in a crucial conversation with the king. The king asks for truth and advice from Jeremiah, but Jeremiah is hesitant to comply due to prior imprisonment and ongoing death threats. But eventually, Jeremiah tells king Zedekiah God's truth - that if the king voluntarily surrenders to Babylon all would be well with him, his household, and with his city. If the king did not surrender, all would be lost.

Delivering tough messages, especially to those in power, takes courage, faith, and skill. But we can boldly face and conquer these "Jeremiah moments" through prayer and trust in God.

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<https://zoom.us/j/99731464449?pwd=dUZqWW5MVituL2hTY2NDdU8rVm9Kdz09>

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