

Lessons From The Ethiopian Eunuch

Jeremiah 38:1-13

Background

- Jeremiah's task was to proclaim a message of punishment to the nation of Judah. (Jer. 25:3-11; 24:8-10)
 - Judah had turned from God and failed to heed his prophets.
 - The nation would go into Babylonian captivity for 70 years.
- Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had set up Zedekiah as king. (37:1-3)
- Nothing would change God's plan – not even the Egyptians who became a distraction to the Babylonian army. (Jer. 37:5)

Background

- Jeremiah's message (give up and save your lives –38:2; 39:17) was not popular with the leaders of the people, who accused him of being a traitor, and he is beaten and imprisoned. (Jer. 37:11-15)
- Jeremiah is released by Zedekiah into the prison courtyard. (37:16-21)
- The princes of the people tell Zedekiah that Jeremiah should be put to death because of his disheartening words. He is lowered by ropes into a muddy pit. (38:1-6)

Ebedmelech, The Ethiopian Eunuch Rescues Jeremiah...

- 7 Now when **Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs** which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin; 8 Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and **spake to the king, saying, 9 My lord the king, these men have done evil** in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and **he is like to die for hunger** in the place where he is: for [there is] no more bread in the city. 10 Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die. 11 So Ebedmelech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and **took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah.** 12 And Ebedmelech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now [these] old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so. 13 **So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon:** and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison. (Jer. 38:7-13)

Lessons To Consider...

- Those who should have listened to the voice of the Lord rejected it for their own ways:
 - Jer 2:13 → 13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.
 - Jer 18:12 → 12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.
 - Jer 10:23 → 23 O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Lessons To Consider...

- Silencing the messenger does not change the message:
 - Mat 14:3-4 → 3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put [him] in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.
 - Act 7:57 → 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,
 - 1Ki 22:27 → 27 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this [fellow] in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.
- Jeremiah did not change the message because it was unpopular. (II Tim. 4:1-4; Rom. 1)

Lessons To Consider...

- The courage and compassion of Ebedmelech:
 - Goes to the king and reproves the princes.
 - Condemns the wicked.
 - “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe unto [them that are] wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isa. 5:20-21)
 - Ebedmelech’s concern moved him to action. (Js. 2:14-16; 4:17)

Conclusion...

- Jeremiah 39
 - In the 11th year of Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem.
 - Zedekiah and his princes make a run for it.
 - They are overtaken in the plain of Jericho.
 - Zedekiah sees his sons slaughtered, then his eyes are put out, and he is lead away in chains to Babylon.
 - Jeremiah is taken care of at the order of the king.
 - What about Ebedmelech, the Ethiopian eunuch?
 - Jer. 39:17-18
 - Isa. 56:1-8
 - Acts 8:28-40