

Msg: ORDER MY STEPS
Series: Discover Purpose
Scripture: Jeremiah 1:1-10 NIV

REVIEW: It's a Wonderful Life

1. LEARN HOW TO BE OK WITH YOUR STORY
2. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED YOUR STORY
3. LEARN HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY

JEREMIAH 1:1-10

'The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile. The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." '

Story : Jakob's Switch

Jeremiah the book is poetic, has narrative forms that tell the stories of all that happened, as well as the historic account of what was happening at the time in this part of the world.

Jeremiah was an Israelite priest, a prophet- a messenger of God for forty years.

Introspective prophet, impetuous and often angered by the role God gave him. Idolatry and Injustice leading to Babylonian exile.

Jeremiah preaches for 20 years. Anthology Messenger of Justice and Grace. Prophet to Israel.

Not to simply Uproot and tear down but Plant and Build up. For the The most vulnerable- the widows, the orphans and the immigrants.

Jeremiah lived during a turbulent period, the final years of the kingdom of Judah, from the death of King Josiah 607 BC and the loss of independence that followed, through the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the exile of much its population (587/586).

Jeremiah's prophetic preaching is based on the theme of the covenant between God and Israel

Jeremiah and Moses 40 year comparison

Moses spent forty years leading Israel from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, Jeremiah's forty years saw Israel exiled from the land and Jeremiah himself ultimately died an exile in Egypt.

When we easily or slowly embrace the patterns, thinking and perspective of this World they inevitable consume us. Rather than being salt and light we become bland and void. To Discover Purpose, you and I get the privilege to ask and allow the Holy Spirit to literally,
Order My Steps to fulfill His Purposes.

1.
GOD'S LOVE AFFIRMS YOUR IDENTITY

Jeremiah 1:4-5 NIV

"The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.""

YOU MUST MEET GOD DAILY

Jeremiah was close enough to hear God.

-Your honesty and venerability before God empties your humanity and fills you with His divinity.

Psalms 139:2-4

'You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord , know it completely. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. '

GOD AFFIRMS YOU IN THE SECRET PLACE,
SO THAT HE CAN USE YOU IN PUBLIC SPACE.

I must decrease+ the "must" "decrease" speaks of My willingness to go through the process of change, growth and maturity so that Christ will be seen in me, my decisions, my plans

STEP: THE MATURITY TEST
YOUR RESPONSE WHEN YOUR THINKING IS CHALLENGED.

1 Cor. 14:20 ESV

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

-Desire to simply BE better every day.

-You'd be surprised by how much of a big difference, this little step can make.

-When I submit to His shaping, His transformation in my life, I'm being conformed into the image of His Son. This makes me useful for His purposes.

-No knock against your upbringing, your culture or your ideas but God is infinite and eternal and he wants to do More in you because He is doing more in THE EARTH!

EMBRACE BEING CONFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF JESUS

*DEVICE UPGRADES

2.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY COVERS YOUR INSECURITIES

JEREMIAH 1:6-8

"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

GOD DOES WHAT HE WANTS, HOW HE WANTS, WITH WHO HE WANTS, WHEN HE WANTS, WHERE HE WANTS

Colossians 1:17 NIV

"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

-Jeremiah is faced with the most difficult assignment to deliver hard truths to hard hearts with no certainty that what is being communicated is actually God, or even Going to be received as of God

-We often orient your lives around our insecurities where God wants to REORIENT OUR LIVES BASED ON HIS SOVEREIGNTY

-We can't fight against or resist the sovereignty of God. Rather we must rest and take confidence in the security His sovereignty provides.

HIS SOVEREIGNTY IS YOUR SECURITY

Understanding the sovereignty of God addresses our deepest fears and insecurities. Regardless of your age, background, social class, inexperience, gender, ethnicity or nationality.

HE ADDRESSES YOUR INSECURITIES.

How? Through another step...

STEP: THE MOTIVE TEST

GOD'S EXAMINATION OF MY WHY TO BRING HIM GREATER HONOR.

Psalms 26:2

Examine me, LORD, and put me to the test; Refine my mind and my heart.

WHY DO YOU DO, WHAT YOU DO?

-The honest daily critical reflection allows our WHY to be checked, challenged and corrected by the Holy Spirit so that even our inward invisible motives glorify God.

-This keeps our perspective correct and our problems and frustrations in proper context

-We must fight to allow this truth to orient our dreams, resolve our frustrations and constantly check our motives for not only what we want but WHY we want this job, this relationship etc

3.

GOD'S GRACE ASSIGNS YOUR INFLUENCE

Jeremiah 1:9-10 NIV

"Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

His Grace is on Your life is Your Sweet Spot
Discover the grace God has placed in you.

"I KNOW GOD BREATHED ON ME" There is a unique empowering designed specifically for you!

EMBRACE THE GRACE FOR YOUR RACE

YOU MUST OPEN YOUR MOUTH....YOU MUST DO WHAT GOD SAID TO DO

-The assignment should feel overwhelming

-Let's be honest, IT IS BIGGER THAN YOU!

-You can waste time, energy and resources, questioning or complaining about the size, scale or scope of the assignment, instead...

FOCUS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT

KEEP THE BURDEN BURNING BRIGHT

(like fire shut up my bones)

Through Prayer, the Word, worship and constant connection with the needs. The mud. Jesus knew us because he experienced our pain.

We often think of that as positive but UNRESTRAINED FIRE DESTROYS

DON'T ALLOW THE BURDEN TO BURN YOUR PROGRESS

HOW? Through another step...

STEP: THE RELATIONSHIP TEST

THE PEOPLE WHO CALL OUT THE GRACE OF GOD ON YOUR LIFE, CLARIFY YOUR ASSIGNMENT AND CULTIVATE YOUR INFLUENCE.

THE PUSHERS

Those who PROPEL you, growing into your God ordained purpose

THE PROMOTORS

Those who CELEBRATE you, flourishing in your God ordained purpose

THE PHONIES

Those who DISTRACT you, slowing you down in your God ordain purpose.

Psalms 119:133-136 KJV

“Order my steps in thy word: And let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the oppression of man: So will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; And teach me thy statutes. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, Because they keep not thy law.”

Let's pray,

“PLEASE, ORDER MY STEPS IN YOUR WORD”