

Martyrs: Jeremiah
Jeremiah 1:1-9

Sorrowful ...

- I. Destined for Ministry
 - A. Consecrated
 - B. Equipped
- II. Embracing God's Heart
 - A. Internalizing
 - B. Expressing
- III. Declaring God's Word
 - A. A Sad Story
 - B. A Savior to Come

... unto death

Children, Listen ...

1. Who gave the prophet Jeremiah the words he was to preach?
2. Why was Jeremiah often so sad?
3. How do we know that the people did not appreciate Jeremiah's message from God?
4. What will God do if sinners come to Him for forgiveness and ask for help to turn from sin?
5. Jesus came to bring forgiveness and save. Why was it important for Him to remind people of their sin?

Leaving an Impression

One can't help but get the impression that being an Old Testament prophet is a daunting task. Some of the things they had to say were harsh, some of the things they had to do were by most standards bizarre. Prophets were meant to leave an impression on the people. The Reactions of the people to their words and actions were often violent and sometimes murderous. But there is one aspect of the prophet's ministry that we often overlook, one that is prominent in the ministry of Jeremiah. We often think of the physical harm that can come to faithful heralds of God's Word in antagonistic settings – Jeremiah would face that. But he also experienced what we might call the heightened psycho-emotional-spiritual impact of ministry. He is often called the weeping prophet. It was not because he was a particularly emotional person, it was because he embraced the heart and message of God to the point that that is consumed him. God's response to the flagrant rebellion against Him provoked him to anger, but also grief. His love for them produced what we would consider heartbreak, but also compassion. We might not be comfortable using the term "emotion" in relation to God, but that is certainly what is projected in the prophetic word he gave to Jeremiah – and Jeremiah owned it for himself. When Jeremiah preached he preached from his heart and his heart was in tune with God's. He wept over their sin, grieved over their self-inflicted wrath and experienced the brokenhearted love that aches over a stiff-necked, hard-hearted and adulterous people.