

Three Reasons We Cannot Quit

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah: The Christ-like Prophet, Part 7

- I can imagine someone in Jeremiah's day thinking, "Jeremiah needs some counseling, so let's have a talk with him and tell him it is time to quit & pack it in."
- Jeremiah...
 - 1.) ...these persecutions of jail, beating and your body being twisted and distorted in those prison stocks is going to get worse (Jer.20:2,3).
 - 2.) ...no one wants to hear what you have to say (Jer.20:4-6; 8).
 - 3.) ...your emotional mood swings are very abnormal - the constant pressure is definitely getting to you! (Jer.20:14-18).
 - 4.) ...the Lord over-promised and sweet-talked you into being a prophet, but let's face it: it's not all its cracked up to be! (Jer.20:7)
 - 5.) ...you told God that you could not speak at the very beginning. Maybe you were right! (Jer.1:6)
 - 6.) ...you have said everything you need to say and you are only a walking joke. (Jer.20:7)
- But Jeremiah answers, "I cannot quit!" I find three overpowering reasons why he could not quit and neither can we!

1. I have a FIRE (in my heart), v.10

Jeremiah 20:10b; But His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Amos 3:8; The lion hath roared, who will not fear? The Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

Amos 7:13-15, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: and the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

2 Corinthians 4:5; For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2. I have an AWESOME GOD (with me), v.11-12

Jeremiah 20:11a; But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one:

- Jeremiah deeply feels and knows, “the LORD is with me, as a mighty, awesome, Warrior!” This is what God had promised in Jeremiah 1:8, 18,19.

2 Corinthians 4:1; Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.

- A. He protects me continually, v.11
- B. He knows me intimately, v.12a
- C. He understands my cause completely

Psalm 62:8; Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

3. I have a SONG (in my Soul), v.13

Jeremiah 20:13; Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for He hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.

- God’s songs help us to stand up...
 - A. ...and praise God during dark days.
 - B. ...and see His deliverance!

Psalm 77:6; I call to remembrance my **song** in the **night**: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.