

Jeremiah's Spine of Steel

Jeremiah 37-38

Jeremiah: The Christlike Prophet, part 12

- You may remember from your childhood the Hans Christian-Anderson fairy tale titled – *The Emperor's New Clothes* (He really had none!) It's a story about people drawn into a pack mentality and lack the courage to speak truth out of fear of looking stupid.
- Our study this morning will focus on two men: the Prophet Jeremiah who had a *Spine of Steel* and King Zedekiah who was *The Emperor Who Has No Spine*.
- Jeremiah 37-38 is filled with intense drama and action!
- Here are three characteristics of Jeremiah's spine of steel:

1. Uncompromising! (37:1-10)

- **Jeremiah would not water down his message**

A. King Zedekiah asks of Jeremiah, "Pray for us!" Should he?

Jeremiah 7:16: Pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee. (Also Jer.14:11)

B. Jeremiah remains firm in his predictions and shoots down their plans!

2. Unashamed! (37:12-21)

- **Jeremiah would not back down from truth to be liked**

A. Jeremiah is beaten and thrown into a dark dungeon of death, v.15-16

B. Jeremiah boldly tells Zedekiah of judgment, v.17,18

3. Unafraid! (Jeremiah 38)

- **Jeremiah fearlessly bore the consequences of his obedience**

A. Zedekiah buckles to the pressure of his cabinet, Jer.38:5

B. Jeremiah is put into another dungeon where he "sunk in the mire," Jer.38:6

C. Zedekiah's last chance for survival: even at this dark moment it was still not too late for him to obey! (It is NEVER too late for you to turn to the LORD and obey Him!)

Proverbs 29:25; The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 14:26, 27: In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

- Will you live with no spine fearing man or will you have a spine of steel and courageously in the fear of God?