

**God's Calling Requirements**  
**Part 29**

***“1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” 3 So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. 4 But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me. 6 He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. 7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9 And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. 11 “Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’ 12 But they will reply, ‘It’s no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.’ ” 13 Therefore this is what the LORD says: “Inquire among the nations: Who has ever heard anything like this? A most horrible thing has been done by Virgin Israel. 14 Does the snow of Lebanon ever vanish from its rocky slopes? Do its cool waters from distant sources ever stop flowing? 15 Yet my people have forgotten me; they burn incense to worthless idols, which made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient paths. They made them walk in byways, on roads not built up. 16 Their land will be an object of horror and of lasting scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will shake their heads. 17 Like a wind from the east, I will scatter them before their enemies; I will show them my back and not my face in the day of their disaster.” 18 They said, “Come, let’s make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not cease, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let’s attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says.” 19 Listen to me, LORD; hear what my accusers are saying! 20 Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for me. Remember that I stood before you and spoke in their behalf to turn your wrath away from them. 21 So give their children over to famine; hand them over to the power of the sword. Let their wives be made childless and widows; let their men be put to death, their young men slain by the sword in battle. 22 Let a cry be heard from their houses when you suddenly bring invaders against them, for they have dug a pit to capture me and have hidden snares for my feet. 23 But you, LORD, know all their plots to kill me. Do not forgive their crimes or blot out their sins from your sight. Let them be overthrown before you; deal with them in the time of your anger.” (Jeremiah 18:1-23)***

*Jeremiah 18* is a good passage that can demonstrate how you will fulfill God’s calling in your life. Jeremiah responded and cooperates with the way that God wanted him to respond to His call. You can be effective as Jeremiah as you respond to the call of God.

***1- Go where God wants you to go: 1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.”*** Go where God wants you to go. The Lord would tell you certain message in certain places and not in another or where you are. The reason is that you need to see certain things before you can grasp deeply the message of God. ***3 So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him***

***working at the wheel. 4 But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.*** When Jeremiah saw the potter working on the clay and was trying to shape it, again and again even when it was marred, the Lord use that imagery to speak and convey His message to Jeremiah with a visual illustration, ***5 Then the word of the LORD came to me. 6 He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.*** God will use with you certain imagery illustration and when you are there and looking of what is going on, then you would hear the voice of the Lord speaking to you. Jeremiah saw how the potter had the full power and authority to shape and reshape the clay in the way he want and wish. That was the message; God is able and can do to His people whatever he wishes.

***2- Understand the doctrine of God clearly: 7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9 And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.*** There are many people who claim the promises to receive blessings from Him and that is correct. But that will not be possible if they are not obeying God and abide with His word and precepts. As you can read in verses 9 and 10 that even if God promised good to a nation but that nation or people do not deserve it, then God will relent from giving them His favor. In the same way if God promised punishment for a wicked nation, and that nation would respond to God warning and repent of their sins then God will relent from sending His punishment to that nation as you can read in verses 7 and 8.

***3- Inform the people about God’s plan for them: 11 “Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’ ”*** Many who preach the gospel they tell the people that God had good plans for them and they quote ***Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*** That is correct and need to be explained adequately. ***Jeremiah 29:11*** is true only after the people had repented. But if they are in sin and non-repented, then you need to tell them that God is ***devising a plan against you***. When people of God are in sin, then ***Jeremiah 18:11*** is the accurate message to the people in order to warn them and lead them to turn from their evil ways. ***Jeremiah 18*** described clearly how rebellious people speaks and behave as you can read here in the following verses: ***12 But they will reply, ‘It’s no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.’ ” 13 Therefore this is what the LORD says: “Inquire among the nations: Who has ever heard anything like this? A most horrible thing has been done by Virgin Israel. 14 Does the snow of Lebanon ever vanish from its rocky slopes? Do its cool waters from distant sources ever stop flowing? 15 Yet my people have forgotten me; they burn incense to worthless idols, which made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient paths. They made them walk in byways, on roads not built up.*** They are stubborn and insist to go on their own plans and ways. With what they do they are forgetting the Lord who created them and saved them. They are worshipping idols and worldly practices and norms that will cause them to stumble in their ways and deviate them to go into byways. Therefore to those who are disobedient and reluctant to obey the message of God then this is the message, ***‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am***

*preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.”* In fulfilling to God’s calling in your life, you need to warn the people and exhort them to turn from their evil ways and to reform their ways and their action to go in line with God’s ways.

**4- Expound to the people the judgment of God:** *“16 Their land will be an object of horror and of lasting scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will shake their heads.”* Expound to them that their sins and rebelliousness will cause God to make them desolate by removing His blessings from the land. *“17 Like a wind from the east, I will scatter them before their enemies; I will show them my back and not my face in the day of their disaster.”* Tell them that God will cause you to scatter before your enemies, and in the day that you are in distress and need God, He will show you His back instead of showing His face because He is displeased with you.

**5- Be aware that you will be attacked and persecuted by the people:** *“18 They said, “Come, let’s make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not cease, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let’s attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says.”* They made a plan against Jeremiah and they will make a plan against you when you declare to them the will of God and the judgment of God against their sins. They will belittling you and will tell you that others are also teaching and prophesying, and even they are better than you in order to undermine the message of God through you to them.

**6- Pray and cry to God for mercy to protect you and to deal with their sins:** *“19 Listen to me, LORD; hear what my accusers are saying! 20 Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for me. Remember that I stood before you and spoke in their behalf to turn your wrath away from them.”* Pour out your soul before God and speak to Him all what you pass through and appeal to Him to rescue you.

**7- Express the love of God in full to the people who are persecuting you:** *“21 So give their children over to famine; hand them over to the power of the sword. Let their wives be made childless and widows; let their men be put to death, their young men slain by the sword in battle. 22 Let a cry be heard from their houses when you suddenly bring invaders against them, for they have dug a pit to capture me and have hidden snares for my feet. 23 But you, LORD, know all their plots to kill me. Do not forgive their crimes or blot out their sins from your sight. Let them be overthrown before you; deal with them in the time of your anger.”*

The prayer that Jeremiah prayed for the people and his request to God to judge them in his anger might be questioned by some who would say Jesus say, Bless and not curse. That is true, but what Jeremiah did, his prayer was recorded, he wrote it, and was in public for the people to read and know what he prayed for. He was honest and that was the way that he truly loved the people when he did not cheat them and hide his hurt from exposing it to them. God love the people who persecute you. And you need to understand that God in keeping you and sustaining you among them in spite of all their harm and hurt are God’s love to them in continuing sending them His message through your life. And for you to express in honesty all their wrong doing, putting that in writing, and requesting God to judge them is revealing to them God’s displeasure, and that can be discovered as a marvelous work that you can do to show your full love to them. Charity and love delight in the truth, and so that what you are doing when you tell the people everything face to face.

**My dear and beloved:** *“14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16) Your willingness to stay where God had placed you and among the people that He requested you to minister is part of fulfilling your God’s calling in your life. Jeremiah never escape or move away from the people that God asked him to face, preach the message and proclaim to them God’s judgment. He was honest and did not alter what God meant to tell the people. This will be the way to show your full commitment to God’s call in your life, as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your clear word to me. Lord I commit myself to stay where you had placed me and to do the ministry that you entrusted to me to do in whatever detail that you had described to me. Lord protects me from the people that are angry with me because I faced them with your word and with your judgment. Lord sustains me and sustains the life of the people who are serving You with me. Provide our needs, strengthen us and deliver us from the evil one. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

# Jesus christ



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