

God's Calling Requirements

Part 36

The Calling of Jeremiah

“1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: 2 To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth* year of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. 4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. 12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it. 13 And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. 14 Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. 15 For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah. 16 And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands. 17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.” (Jeremiah 1:1-19 KJV)

The prophet Jeremiah was from a priest family and God called him at the reign of Josiah the king of Judah. The King Josiah was a righteous king, and he was a radical person in dealing with sin. King Josiah cleansed the temple of God from all the idols that his father and his forefathers had placed in the temple of God. He cleansed Judah from the high places and removed all the altars of the foreign gods. He extended his campaign and reached Samaria and he cleansed it from all kinds of idol worship and he destroyed all the foreign altars where the priests were conducting their idol worship.

Therefore Jeremiah would be of great help to Josiah the king in his zealous campaign to remove all kinds of idol worship in the land. Josiah was doing, and Jeremiah was saying; they were a good combination working together. Such a good combination that the church today

should do; to say the talk and to do the work, in removing idols and wrong and foreign practices from the life of the church and the church members.

You may think or say, what for then that Jeremiah called by God if there was Josiah who was doing very well? That is correct, but two together is better than one. Moreover, as you know when Josiah died, Jeremiah's ministry continued and he ministered with wicked kings, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, who came after King Josiah as we read there: ***“1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: 2 To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.” (Jeremiah 1:1-3 KJV)*** Even if there are other people are doing well in the ministry when God is calling you then respond to the message because the time will come when there is no one else but you in that particular place to continue the ministry where you need to stand and be firm in declaring to the people around you the whole will of God.

The following are some of these idols that we need to be persistent to fight against. Although we have discussed that before, some of us still needed to be reminded to completely give up all these idols with their wrong practices.

A. Lust and immorality; having boyfriend and girlfriend, dating, courting, watching pornography, live-in relationship, divorce and remarriage, adultery, multiple marriages and unlawful marriages in marrying non believers, and accepting a single father or a single mother to marry someone other than the mother or the father of his or her child or children.

B. Celebrating feasts of idols; celebrating New Year and Christmas with its Santa Claus, Christmas tree, celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and death anniversaries, celebrating Father's Day and Mother's Day, Halloween (Harvest), All Saints Day, Valentine's Day, Pastor's Month, and Farewell parties. All these celebrations should be out of our lives. And you can add more to the list, for almost every culture and ethnic group had added certain idols and days for celebration, without any Biblical reason, into the life of the church.

C. Pride, boasting and showing off.

D. Greed, covetousness, and love of money.

E. Wasting and spending too much.

F. Gluttony, eating too much, loving food more than God, buying food from restaurants, loving feasts and celebrations but refusing to fast.

G. Worldliness; wasting time on TV, You-Tube and facebook.

H. Slander, malice, envy, jealousy, bitterness, having grudges, anger, hatred and unforgiveness, boasting, showing off, laziness, complacency and lack of commitment to God, and serving the worldly things but not willing to serve God.

I. Homosexualities, allowing a relationship between man to man, and woman to woman, condoning transgender and homosexual attitude and actions, and allowing homosexual marriages.

The time and the place that God had placed you to minister is ordained by God and He has a certain purpose and task for you to achieve, “4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:4-5 KJV)

God before formed you in your mother belly had set you aside and had consecrated you for that particular mission. Therefore you need to agree with God and go through the process of sanctification to get ready for your appointment.

You are ordained and set aside as a prophet to declare the will of God to the people around you. You are called by God to reach out others with the message of God. You are called to show them from the Scriptures where they had failed God and what they need to do to come back to Him. You need to show them how they should live their duties and the tasks they need to perform.

“6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.” (Jeremiah 1:6-7 KJV) Don't put out your excuses and try to avoid the calling of God. You are not small, or unable. You need to go to the people that God is sending you and to speak to them whatever God is asking you to speak. Don't expect that God will relieve you and send someone else if He had called you unless you chose to disobey God.

“8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 1:8 KJV) God called Jeremiah to go and face people. Facing people is one of the difficult things that those who are called by God try to avoid. But that is the very exact thing that you need to do. You should not go and speak at their backs with other people but instead you should go and directly face them. Don't allow fear to control you for the Lord is with you as you are willing to serve Him and He will deliver you from their hand and their harm.

“9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.” (Jeremiah 1:9 KJV) God will provide you with His Word that will make your mission and your task possible and effective. When God will guide then sure He will provide. As He met the needs of Jeremiah by touching his mouth and putting His Word over his mouth, the Lord sure will meet your needs and will make this mission and calling of yours effective.

“10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.” (Jeremiah 1:10 KJV) The Word of God that God is giving you is for many nations and categories of people, and will have the following various effects:

1- To root out,

- 2- and to pull down,
- 3- and to destroy,
- 4- and to throw down,
- 5- to build,
- 6- and to plant

The Word of God would bring dramatic changes in the life of the people; it should root out traditional wrong practices that bring generational curses: It will pull down idols worship: it will destroy certain wrong set up: It will throw down wrong life styles, wrong priorities and plans and self ambitious things. As well as the Word of God will build and plant the true ministry that is based on the Word of God.

“11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. 12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.” (Jeremiah 1:11-12 KJV) The rod of an almond tree that God shown here to Jeremiah was to remind him about the rod of Aaron, that was blossomed, as a sign that he was chosen by the Lord. “1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. 3 And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. 4 And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. 5 And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. 6 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. 7 And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. 8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. 9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. 11 And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he. 12 And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish. 13 Whosoever cometh anything near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?” (Numbers 17:1-13 KJV) God is here reminding Jeremiah that he is chosen, and called as priest as Aaron was called, and he need to bear fruit for God. The same for you, as you are called by God as a royal priest you need to bear fruit for the Lord, “9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)

“13 And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. 14 Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. 15 For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem,

and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah. 16 And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.” (Jeremiah 1:13-16 KJV) God showed Jeremiah another vision about His coming judgment on Jerusalem and the people of Judah who were living in disobedience to Him and to His Word. God is here promising He will send His fierce judgment on the people of the land due to their idol worship that they were doing against God. In the same way, God calling for you today is in a very critical period in the life of His church where corruption, compromises, immoralities, injustice, abuse, wrong motives, worldly and traditional practices are so rampant among God’s people and God is promising He is sending His fierce anger as judgment over the people, and God wants you today to announce the judgment of God over those who refuse to amend their ways and live in obedience to God’s Word and will.

“17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.” (Jeremiah 1:17 KJV) Get yourself ready. Put on the full armor of God and gird yourself with the belt of truth, for God is sending you to proclaim His will to the nations.

You have no other choice but to go forward. Be not dismayed at their faces: Do not be terrified by them and don’t be afraid to go and face the people that God is sending you to speak to. Otherwise this what God will do to you, lest I confound thee before them, for God will terrify you before the people if you refuse the call of God. You have no choice but to obey.

“18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.” (Jeremiah 1:18 KJV) As you obey God and go forward in your calling to go and face the people with God’s message, the followings you will see God is doing for you:

1. God will make you **a defenced city**, that the enemy will not be able to penetrate you.
2. God will make you **an iron pillar**, that those who will strike you, themselves will be hurt, but you are unaffected.
3. God will make you **brassen walls against the whole land**, something that the enemy cannot change. The bronze wall they cannot break or demolish, and since it is a wall then they cannot progress and go forward with their plans. God want to use you to frustrate the evil plans of the people.

My dear and beloved: “19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.” (Jeremiah 1:19 KJV) As you are willing to obey God and do the kind of ministry that He asked you to do, then He will protect you and He will save you. They will fight against you but they will not prevail. Therefore be clear minded, obey the Lord and go forward in your mission to serve Him.

Let us pray: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life.

Let us confess to the Lord our sins.

Lord forgive me the following sins _____.

Confess and renounce your reluctance to respond to God’s call, your reluctance and excuses to go and deliver the message that God wants you to deliver for certain particular people of God, confess your fear of man and your stubbornness.

Lord thank you for you had called me to serve you. Lord thank you for the clear Word that you sent to me. Lord I commit my life to serve you and to do the work of yours and the task that you are entrusted to me to do. Lord give me your Word that I need in my life to root out traditional wrong practices that bring generational curses, to pull down idols worship, to destroy certain wrong set up, to throw down wrong life styles, wrong priorities and plans and self ambitious things, and to build and plant the true ministry that is based on Your Word. Lord protects me from people’s persecution and from harm and from the work of Devil and provide for me all my needs.

Lord makes me a defenced city, that the enemy will not be able to penetrate me. Lord makes me an iron pillar, that those who will strike me, themselves will be hurt. Lord makes me a brasen walls against the whole land, something that the enemy cannot break or demolish, and cannot progress or go forward with their plans.

Lord, I pray for all the brethren that they had committed their lives to you. Lord protect them from all the work of Satan. Lord provide all their needs. Lord give them more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, peace, joy, patience, perseverance, self-control, long-suffering, gentleness and kindness, so in character they will be like you, that people will see you through their lives.

Lord I pray for us as a church to be doer of your Word and to accomplish the tasks that you had called us to do for you. Lord refill us again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives. Lord enable us to evangelize and reach new people with the Gospel and the message of Jesus Christ. Lord enable us to plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

God’s Calling Requirements Part 36. The Calling of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:1-19. Numbers 17:1-13. 1 Peter 2:9.

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