



## Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

### *The OLD TESTAMENT-* Their Story is Our Story **Jeremiah, The Reluctant Prophet** **Jeremiah 1:1-19**

*Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."* **Jeremiah 1:4-8**

How many times in our lives do we find ourselves not always wanting to do the things that God is asking of us. Well, this same thing occurred countless times over with people from the Bible, and as the opening quote from scripture indicates, Jeremiah was reluctant to listen to God's call and commission. He was afraid and felt that he was only a boy and not ready to take on such a task.

Jeremiah's family was a priestly one from a northern Israelite tribe, but he did not actively seek out service to the Lord until he was called by Him. He was very young when he began his prophetic career. As was outlined earlier, Jeremiah did not want to accept the appointment from God, but He assured the young man that He would be with him to deliver him through. So, the Lord did not want Jeremiah to be afraid of the people when he prophesied harsh things concerning them.

Jeremiah prophesied against Judah, Jerusalem, and other nations. He was optimistic and condemning in his prophesies. He was courageous and endured beatings and imprisonment. He was even thrown into a well to die because he was delivering God's message. He loved the people so much that he was sometimes called the weeping prophet, because of his tears for them and their fast-approaching doom.

*My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Disaster overtakes disaster, the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are destroyed, my curtains in a moment. How long must I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? "For my people are foolish, they do not know me, they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good."* **Jeremiah 4:19-22**

So, when we need to do something that is difficult, but it is for the greater good of others, we need to remember how God worked through Jeremiah. God wants us to know that we too can bring about good and positive change in the world. God blessed all of us with individual gifts. He knows what we can do and say and be. All we need to do is just listen to the Lord.

**Am I afraid of listening to what God's calling me to do in my life? If so, why?**  
**Am I afraid of speaking up to injustice or doing a good deed because of being ridiculed? If so, pray over it, and ask God for the strength to do better next time.**