

JEREMIAH: THE WORD OF THE LORD

This is the second in a series of five pieces on “Resurrecting Today’s Jeremiahs”. The first was titled: “Jeremiah: God’s Worship Leader.” This piece’s titled: “Jeremiah: The Word of the Lord.” Since Jeremiah served as God’s worship leader, what message did God give to the prophet to deliver to worshipers of his time? That’s the theme for this piece.

The Lord laid four specific challenges upon Jeremiah. The first one was to *stand* in the gate of the Lord’s house and proclaim the Word of the Lord. Here’s the actual text:

“Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim the word of the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord all who enter these gates...to worship the Lord” (7:2).

The Lord’s first order was a simple one. Yes, it was simple. It was also severe. *“Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house.”* Why was it severe? Why? Jeremiah wasn’t ready for it. He resisted God’s call from the very start. He knew that God’s message wasn’t what the people wanted to hear. He was afraid at first.

Do you remember when your mom would call you to task when you were a kid? You would wiggle around when you were told to stand still. She would say, *“Stand still.”* And she really meant it. That’s how God said it. He meant it.

And that’s exactly like Christ says it to today’s worship leaders when he tells them to *“Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house.”* Our Lord insists that worship leaders come *face to face* with frequent worshipers who *milk* personal serenity from the services rather than make their humble obeisance to Christ.

Ask yourselves: What do worshipers say when they leave Sunday services? Do they say it was a blessing to *them*? Words like that! Isn’t it true that people measure worship in light of what it means to *them*? They glory in their *them*. Now hear what God says about such self serving glory:

“Let him who glories glory in this: That he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth, for in these I delight, say the LORD” (Jer. 9:24).

God said to Jeremiah: *Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house.*” And Christ says to today’s resurrecting Jeremiahs: *Stand in the gate!* Confront frequent worshipers face to face. Share with them heart-to-heart. Come, not expecting Christ to smile at your songs and lyrics. *Come*, but making obeisance to him as your exacting Lord; Come, lovingly serving the evident needs of the poor and oppressed.