



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 094 - The Dream Job - **NOT!** (Jeremiah 20:1-13)

David was described as a “boy” or “young man” when he fought Goliath. At the time he was too young to fight in Israel’s army, so we know he was younger than 20. The same word is used to describe Jeremiah’s age when God called him to be a prophet.

- How close were you to God as a teenager?
- What obstacles would you face in trusting a teenager who came to you claiming to speak for God?
- Do you know teenagers who have special talents God can use in His Kingdom?

One of Jeremiah’s greatest obstacles was trying to expose and remove the false confidence the people of Judah placed in the presence of the temple. That false confidence was only destroyed among the people when the temple was destroyed.

- What false hopes do you see people use to convince themselves everything will be okay?
- What false hopes have you held onto?
- How has God broken through your false hopes?

Even after the temple was demolished and most of the people of Judah were exiled to Babylon (or killed), the remaining poor and foolish survivors were still looking for false comfort and hope. Finally they fled to Egypt thinking they would be beyond Babylon’s reach there. Read about the source of their new confidence in Egypt in Jeremiah 44:15-30.

- Why are people unable to see the devastation they bring upon themselves and their loved ones through their rebellious, self-destructive lifestyles (alcoholism, drug addiction, etc.)?
- What areas in life are your “blind spots”—things God warns against which don’t seem all that dangerous to you?

Like Jeremiah, Jesus warned of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem because of the failure of the Jewish leaders to repent and return to God (see Matthew 24:1-2). Like Jeremiah, the Jewish leaders tried to silence Him through threats, intimidations and persecution. But where Jeremiah had asked God to show him the fall of his enemies, Jesus wept over His enemies and prayed, ... “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34b). And He paid the price for their sins as He suffered and died in their place on the cross.

- At what times or situations in life has it been hard for you to hear the will of God?
- Did it change your view of your parents, pastor or whoever shared God’s Word with you regarding that way of life?
- What does Jesus’ willingness to suffer and die in the place of all those who rejected Him and plotted His death show about the mercy and love of our God?