



Occupational Hazards: (Jeremiah 26)

October 14

WATCH: [Jeremiah](#)

CONTEXT: Jeremiah was God's prophet to Judah just before and during the Exile. He had a hard job to confront God's people with some very difficult truths. When we tell people the truth, even in grace, they may not like to hear it! As a result to be a prophet came with occupational hazards!

FIRST, A.M. MISSONS RECAP:

- Why is Quebec the most unreached people group (UPG) in North America?
- What are missionaries and churches like the Middletons doing to redress that?
- How can we be praying for the Middletons?
- Other?

SURVEY: Jer 26

OUTLINE:

1. The chapter is set during the evil years of Jehoiakim (v.1) (2 Chr 36:5);
2. In this context Jeremiah is called to prophesy hard words, yet with the rationale that the people may repent (vv. 2-6);
3. 3 groups (priests, prophets and people) lay hold of Jeremiah. Believing him to be deserving of death they haul him off to the authorities (vv. 7-9);
4. Jeremiah presented before the officials (vv. 10-11);
5. Jeremiah restates his message and commends Himself into the LORD's hands (vv. 12-15);
6. The officials—surprisingly—appeal to a past prophet to demonstrate why Jeremiah is not deserving of death: Micah under Hezekiah and Uriah (vv. 16-19);
7. Another example is shared how under Jehoiakim, the king did not follow the example of Hezekiah but rather searched out for and killed a prophet, Uriah (vv. 20-23)

8. A big "BUT"! One official favoured Jeremiah so he was not put to death.

QUESTIONS for this passage:

1. **V.2- What do you think of Jeremiah's boldness?**
2. **V. 14- Even facing a court trial Jeremiah persisted. What do you think of his response this time?**
3. It is interesting that the officials, including Ahikam (v. 16 and 24) come to Jeremiah's defence. How can God use civil authorities to protect Christians? Can you think of any biblical or historical examples?

QUESTIONS for Jeremiah's ministry:

Jeremiah faced hardship as God's prophet multiple times. Here are some of the big ones.

- Assailed (Jer 14:13; 18:18; Jer 20:2)
- Thrown in a pit (Jer 38)
- Exiled (Jer 43)

What can we learn of his example? Why did prophets who spoke the truth have such a dangerous occupational hazard?

What type of character and faith would it take to endure the ministry of Jeremiah? (c.f. Jer 1:17)

QUESTIONS for today:

"Occupational hazards" are not confined to the past!

1. **Why are Christian leaders often the focus of persecution?**
2. **Why is persecution not limited to leader alone? How are all Christians at risk of persecution? (c.f. Mt 5:11-12; Jn 15:18-19).**
3. **How can persecution be a good sign?**
4. **What positive effects can it have?**

PRAY: For the persecuted Church and that the Lord would give us boldness when tested.

NEXT WEEK: Ps 74—Defend Your Cause