

"When Jeremiah was out of the public eye he was passionate with God—he prayed. Jeremiah's secret life is a prayer life. The cellar reality of Jeremiah's towering humanity is prayer."

– Eugene Peterson

➤ **Jeremiah takes his lack of understanding to the One who understands.**

Jeremiah 15:15

You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors.

Jeremiah's first move isn't inward (to himself) or outward (to others), it's upward (to God).

Anchoring ourselves to what we do know, while we journey through what we don't know.

covenant prayer = speaking with God from a base of the covenant that you have with God

➤ **Jeremiah prayed his emotions.**

Jeremiah 15:15

...You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

reproach = cherpah (kher-paw') = contempt, disgrace, taunting

Jeremiah 15:17

I sat alone because your hand was on me...

Jeremiah 15:17

...and you had filled me with indignation.

indignation = anger, disgust

Jeremiah 15:18

Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?

Weary, lonely, angry, hurt—real life in the real world, a world broken and fractured by sin.

Commentary on modern life...

"By this will all people know that you are being disciplined by the culture—your weariness and anxiety."

Jeremiah's argue with God. The rest argue with each other.

➤ **Jeremiah's words give way to God's words.**

Jeremiah 15:16

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight...

Jeremiah 15:19

Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them."

Jeremiah stops speaking which gives God room to speak.



Jeremiah, your primary concern is to be with *God* not the *people*.
Don't turn to their flattery or ridicule. Don't get bound up in their approval or rejection.

Jeremiah 15:20

"I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,"

Stand up...I didn't say it would be easy, I promised to be with you and help you.

Stand up...get your eyes off the people and put them back on me.

Stand up...repent and reset your prayer priorities.

"Prayer is the desire to listen to God firsthand, to speak to God firsthand, and then setting aside the time and making the arrangements to do it. It issues from the conviction that the living God is immensely important to me and that what goes on between us demands my exclusive attention." – Eugene Peterson

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