

JEREMIAH 1

1. Characterize the circumstances in which Jeremiah was called to speak the Word of the Lord. In light of the text of Jeremiah 1, how would you describe the spiritual state of the people of Judah?
2. What was Jeremiah's initial response to the Lord's call?
3. How does the Lord address Jeremiah's response? How does the Lord confirm Jeremiah and give him confidence in his mission?
4. The Lord is bringing the Babylonians (vv. 13-15 "boiling pot," "tribes of the kingdoms of the north") in judgment against Judah for its unfaithfulness to the Lord. However, the real threat to Jeremiah isn't the warfare of Babylon; it's the people of Judah -- his own people -- who will not respond kindly to him when he speaks the Word of the Lord. In other words, it was "insiders" and not "outsiders" from whom the Lord had to strengthen Jeremiah. In your own life, do you find it easier to share the truth of the gospel with those who are outside of the church, or to speak difficult truth in love to your church friends and family? Why do you think this is? What can you learn from this?
5. What is one thing from the sermon that encouraged you, convicted you, or challenged you?
6. We are not all called to be prophets or foreign missionaries, but all Christians are called to speak God's truth to others, even if it's difficult or seems unfruitful. How would you say you're doing in this department? What are some practical ways you can speak God's truth to those to those inside the church?

7. When others speak difficult truth to you, such as revealing sinful attitudes/tendencies or encouraging you to faithfulness in an area of your Christian walk, what is your default response? (Do you become defensive and hostile? Shut down? Dismiss the person? Welcome the input politely? Take it to heart and pray about it?) Honestly, discuss how you respond and how you should respond in light of the charge we are given as a church to speak truth to one another in love