**Jeremiah 40:1-41:15**

***“Staying Behind With God”***

Introduction:

1. You stay behind with Jesus...what can you expect?

2. Jeremiah 40:1-41:15 there is a remnant who have been left behind. Jeremiah has chosen

 to stay behind:

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**I. THE PRESERVATION OF THOSE WHO STAY BEHIND 40:1-6**

 ***A. Identification Is Costly 1***

**1.** (39:14) Here is the rest of the story. Jeremiah gets to minister to those being

 deported to Babylon. At Ramah he is not recognized. He is put in chains…*among*

 *all who were carried away.*

**2.** Identify yourself with the people of God and you may be misunderstood and

 mistreated.

 **3.** ‘Ministry’ may not be easy.

 ***B. Information Is Crucial 2,3***

**1.** Nebuzaradan, the Babylonian captain of the guard, had heard Jeremiah’s message

 so often he knew it by heart. Judah didn’t get it!

 **2.** Our assignment is to keep giving the message…sin must be paid for…obedience to

 the message is essential to avoid judgment. The Gospel…proclaim it!

 ***C. Instruction Is Chosen 4***

**1.** God has a place for you. He has given you an assignment…**but we choose!**

 **2.** *Wherever it seems good and right, go there.* God’s will isn’t the same for every

 person. **God’s will: this is it! Grow where you are planted.**

 ***D. Interspersion Is Critical 5,6***

Jeremiah was not going back…*go…went (6) Stayed among the people who were left.*

1. **Grow where you are planted.** *Gedaliah…among the people* Go where it seems

 right!

1. We are around.in and among people so our lights will shine.
2. God will bless you in the most unusual way from the most unlikely sources…*so the captain of the guard gave him food and a reward.*
3. Jeremiah accepted his assignment *among the people.* Daniel and Ezekiel’s assignment was in Babylon.

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**II. THE PROVISIONS FOR THOSE WHO STAY BEHIND 40:7-12**

When things were the bleakest, God began to bless. God not only preserves, but God

 provides. The remnant of Jews were in a precarious position. Their very existence as a

 people was in jeopardy. God is a generous God first to Jeremiah. Gedaliah was a good

 man! *Gedaliah* means, ‘The Lord is Great!’. In the midst of the dark there is light!

 ***A. Perspective 7,8***

**1.** Look beyond…see the best in the worst situations.

 **2.** Gladly yield to the authorities over you. They are there by God’s permission and

 design.

 ***B. Plan 9,10a*** You are part of something BIG. Bigger than you know!!

 **1.** Stop fighting what you cannot change.

 **2.** *Fear not to serve the Chaldeans.* Take lemons and turn them into lemonade.

 **3.** *As for me…*immerse yourself in the moment.

 ***C. Prosperity 10b-12*** *wine…summer fruit…oil*

**1.** God will bless the right attitude.

 **2.** These weren’t idle campaign promises (12b). *Gathered and abundance of wine*

 *and summer fruit.* Their homes had gone up in smoke and their fields trampled.

 **3.** God gives His people what they need, even when it scarcely seems possible.

 **4.** If you belong to God, God will take care of you.

 **5.** *God’s providence gives us a security in this insecure, often violent world. The*

 *Lord sits enthroned over all the military, political, social and economic forces of our*

 *generation. His eternal predetermined purposes are ripening through it all. Nothing*

 *has got out of hand, nor will it. We can therefore live day by day knowing that the*

 *hands which hold our lives are the same hand which hold all things. Bruce Milne Know*

 *The Truth*

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**III. THE PROMISES TO THOSE WHO STAY BEHIND**

Jeremiah consists of prophecies of judgment (and it happened!) Jeremiah made many

 precious promises of blessing for God’s people: *It will go well with you (v. 9)*

1. ***Promises Made***
2. *I will gather (23:3) The people who survive the sword will find favor (31:2) God even promised a rich harvest (31:7-8, 12b)*
3. *I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18)*
4. *I will never, no never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)*
5. *He who hath begun a good work in you will continue to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6)*
6. *My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)*
7. ***Promises Manifested***

 God will keep every promise, because He is God and God cannot lie!

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**IV. THE PROVOCATION TO THOSE WHO STAY BEHIND 40:13-41:10**

Satan is always out to get you and destroy God’s work!

 ***A. The Adversary 13-16***

*Baalis the Ammonite hath sent (the name should be a giveaway)…Ishmael…Gedaliah*

 *believed them not.*

**1. Exposed 13,14**

*Gedaliah* can’t and won’t believe it.

 **2. Eliminated 15,16** *Johanan I will slay Ishmael*

\*You must get rid of whatever is hindering your walk with Christ. It’ll kill you!

 \**Scatter the people…*there are consequences for not getting rid of that which is

 hurting the cause of Christ and your testimony. *Gedaliah* is in denial: *thou*

 *speakest foolishly concerning Ishmael.*

 \*He was a ‘friend’. He may have known him his whole life!!

 ***B. The Advance 41:1-10*** It doesn’t stop!

**1.** Gedaliah (1, 2) Ishmael was of the house of David. The throne was rightfully his.

 **2.** *Killed all the Jews that we with Gedaliah, as well as the Babylonian soldiers (3)*

**3.** *Killed 70 holymen (4-9)* These were 80 pilgrims on their way to the holy place,

 even though it lay in ruins. The condition of their hair and clothes showed that they

 were in mourning, repenting for the sins of the nation. Ishmael met these men in tears

 and welcomed them in the name of Gedaliah. They were in the wrong place at the

 wrong time. 70 bartered for their lives. 70 slaughtered bodies were thrown into a

 cistern built by King Asa.

1. Then he took God’s people hostage. Jeremiah was most likely ridiculed. They were going to be handed over to the Ammorites. For Ishmael, nothing was sacred! Hospitality was not sacred. Divinely appointed leadership…the worship of God and even human life was of little value.
2. What a picture of our society. Nothing is sacred…neither the worship of God…matrimony…the family…nothing is sacred.

 *“Barring an undeserved outpouring of the Holy Spirit, within a generation the*

 *influence of Christianity on the American culture will be lost. The influence of the*

 *church on the city, education, politics, entertainment and the media will dwindle*

 *until it virtually disappears.”*

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**V. THE PROTECTION OF THOSE WHO STAY BEHIND 41:11-15**

God will have the final say! Johanan rescued the remnant of God’s people and they rallied to

 his cause.

 ***A. The Man 11*** God uses people to accomplish His purpose.

 ***B. The Memorial 12*** Gibeon: ruins of a manmade pod 82’ deep was a reminder that

 God will preserve His people. It is a reminder that God rules and over rules. Man has a say,

 but God has the final say!

 ***C. The Movement 13-15*** God brought them back!

***God will see you through to the end!!!***