**Jeremiah 45:1-5**

***“When You Feel Like A Nobody”***

Introduction:

1. God had a message for Baruch. He was the secretary of Jeremiah. He was introduced in

 ch. 36. That was in 603 B.C. nearly 25 years before he went to Egypt. Baruch had become

 disheartened, just as Jeremiah had been. God says, *“I have a message for you.”*

2. Do you feel unimportant? Do you feel like a nobody? You are hurt and disappointed.

3. Jeremiah 45:1-5 we are reminded that God hasn’t forgotten about you.

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**I. THE CONFIGURATION 45:1**

We all have a background...a history...a story.

1. ***His Past***
2. Baruch came from an influential family of noble birth. He was the grandson of Mahseiah (32:12), the governor of Jerusalem in Josiah’s reign. His brother had been chief chamberlain in the court of Zedekiah (51:59).
3. He was the secretary of a famous prophet, Jeremiah. He was a secretary. Have you lived in the shadow of someone? Maybe you didn’t quite measure up to expectations.
4. ***His Pain***
5. *After Baruch had written on a scroll.*
6. The story is in ch. 36. This was not the computer age. In v. 2…*write the words of Jeremiah*. This may have taken 12-18 months. Jehoiakim cuts up the manuscript and throws it into the fire. In vss 26, 28 *take another scroll, write in it.*
7. You have carpal tunnel from the first writing. What you’ve done has been cut to pieces. How do you feel?
8. Baruch happens to be the only man from the Old Testament who has been fingerprinted! In 1975, a group of archeologists purchased some clay documents from an Arab antiquities dealer. The Bookmarks were deciphered in 1986. They discovered that one bears the seal: *Baruch, son of Neriah.* Since then another document marker has been discovered that bears not only Baruch’s seal, but also a thumbprint! Very probable that it’s of Baruch!
9. Baruch was a flesh and blood man. He had a fingerprint. It hurt when he was rejected. Fear and sorrow filled his heart when his message was attacked.
10. Life can be brutal. ‘Friends’ and neighbors can hurt you deeply.

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**II. THE COMMUNICATION 45:1,2**

*This is what Jeremiah told Baruch*. This is what the God of Israel says to you.

1. ***It Is Powerful***
2. *The God of Israel…*Jeremiah had been addressing a country.
3. This is a BIG God with a BIG message!
4. ***It Is Personal*** *You, O Baruch*
5. God has time for you to talk to you.
6. God has a message for you. Your importance or lack of it depends on who is interested in you. God has a plan for you. God has a purpose for you.
7. Spend time in His Word…meditate. He will speak to you. **LISTEN!**

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**III. THE COMPLICATIONS 45:3**

God spoke because Baruch had been complaining. Life can be tough and get you down.

 God knows what you say. He still doesn’t throw you out!

 ***A. His Condition***

**1. Despaired** *“Woe is me now!” “Woe to me”*

\*Present circumstances and situations can be overwhelming. *“Now”* can be very

 deceiving.

 \*Perhaps God’s word came after he started the second copy.

 **2. Discouraged** Life can seem overwhelming.

 **3. Disheartened** If ‘life’ is big enough you may not want to go on.

 **4. Disillusioned** This is my assignment, but where is God?

 **5. Depressed**

 ***B. His Confusion***

**1.** Why? Note the words. He already had *sorrow. Grief* is added. He had *sighing…*now

 *faint…No Rest!*

 **2.** *Grief* implies some pain. He may have had a physical problem *Sorrow…*a broken heart

like the death of a loved one. Sorrow is added to pain. *Groaning* is a secret burden carried

 in his heart. *No rest…*no comfort, ease or quiet. He’s worn out! **The sea roars inside!**

1. Watch when problems come like bananas…in bunches! You’ll feel overwhelmed and come to the wrong conclusions.

 ***C. His Conclusion***

 *The Lord had added sorrow to pain.*

1. Baruch was blaming God for his troubles. *“God gave me a lousy husband or wife.” “God made me sick.” “God took my loved one.”*
2. Whatever the trouble, God is to blame! Notice the *I, me and my*. In the Hebrew it really sounds self-centered. Every word ends with the 1st person possessive pronoun: *my woe…my pain…my being worn out…my groaning…my finding no rest.*
3. However much Baruch hated life, he loved himself! As depression turns against God, it turns inward upon self. Baruch could not see beyond his own troubles. He spent all his time thinking about how tired he was…how much pain he was in…how many burdens he had to bear.

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**IV. THE CONTRADICTION 45:4**

Life is bigger than *“now”.* Let’s say you would become governor, CEO of a major

 company. You are important. One day it will all go!

1. ***Let’s Make It Personal*** *Thou shalt say to him*
2. Put your name here.
3. Put your picture in the book.
4. ***Let’s Make It Practical***
5. *I build…I will break*
6. *I plant…I will pluck…even the whole country*
7. *“You have 5 years at the most.”* Priorities come flooding in…what’s really important? **One day all of this will go…are you building for eternity?**
8. *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom 8:18)*
9. **Look Beyond!**

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**V. THE CONFRONTATION 45:5a**

There are many things He could have said…like: *Stop being so selfish!*

 ***A. Focus***

**1.** Get your eyes off yourself and see what’s happening around you.

 **2.** People are lost without hope and judgment is coming. *If the gospel is hidden it is*

 *hidden to those who are lost.*

 ***B. Follow*** *Seek*

1. **Seek not thyself, but Himself.**
2. Live for Jesus, that’s what matters. Baruch was seeking to get things and he was already involved in a great project.
3. God was trying to redefine ***Great***. *Seek God’s kingdom first (Mt. 6:33)* and He will take care of the rest!

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**VI. THE CONSOLATION 45:5b**

Chapter 45 is where it is supposed to be. God keeps His word.

1. ***His Presence*** *Wherever you go and whatever you do…I’ll be there*
2. ***His Promise*** *I’ll take care of you.* 25 years later in 580 B.C. as Baruch arranges God’s message… ***“It’s true” “God came through.”*** Today, we have the book of Jeremiah. Thanks to Baruch! Thanks to the faithfulness of God. Don’t quit!

***Jesus Led Me All The Way. His Way Is Best...Trust Him!!***