**Jeremiah 16:1-17:4**

***“On Assignment”***

Introduction:

Do you realize that you as a believer are “ON ASSIGNMENT” here on planet earth?

Jeremiah was “ON ASSIGNMENT”:

**I. GOD’S ASSIGNMENT 16:1-9** *SERVICE*

Jeremiah’s assignment was unique to him. He was a living illustration of God’s dealing

 with Judah. No other prophet had this assignment.

***A. He Was Forbidden To Marry 1-4***

**1. God’s Pronouncement 1** *The word of the Lord came unto me saying…*

\*Your assignment is not your idea. God has wired you in a certain way with

 something unique in mind.

 \*It’s your assignment.

 **2. God’s Perimeter 2**

\*Everyone in those days got married. He wasn’t to marry!

 \*There was not even a word in Biblical Hebrew for bachelor.

 \*This was Jeremiah’s assignment and no one else!

 \*God can give you any assignment He wants. It may not seem right or fair, **but**

 **He has something in mind! It’s bigger than you!!!**

 **3. God’s Purpose 3,4** *For*

\*Jeremiah’s singleness was symbolic of the judgement to come.

 \*It showed how much families would suffer, and how it would be better if Jeremiah

 were not to marry at all.

 \*Let God be God. He’s bigger and wiser even though His reasons aren’t always

 evident. **He knows best!**

 **\***You are part of a bigger, grander scheme**. Allow God time to work things out!**

 ***B. He Was Forbidden To Mourn 5-7***

**1. God’s Directive 5** *Thus saith the Lord…*

\*God speaks to us in different ways: through His word…through prayer…through

 open doors and shut doors…input from godly people…that still small voice.

 \*God does speak and it is plain. Everyone went to funerals in those days. *“Come*

 *on Jerry, at least send a sympathy card.”*

\*Jeremiah was God’s prophet. A prophet is a living sermon. Every social event

 reveals something about the character and purpose of God.

 **2. God’s Direction 6,7**

 **\***Jeremiah’s apparent lack of love and pity were symbolic of judgment to come.

 \*It showed that God had withdrawn His blessing, His love and compassion.

 \*God wants to use you and me as a living illustration of the mercy and grace of

 God!

 ***C. He Was Forbidden To Mingle 8,9***

**1. God Orders 8,9** *Thou shalt not…thus saith the Lord*

\*Do you get the idea that God calls the shots?

 \*It’s God who gives us our marching orders. Jeremiah simply obeyed!

 **2. God Ordains 8,9**

 **\***Jeremiah couldn’t go to dinner parties. What could be wrong with an

 anniversary banquet or a retirement dinner?

 \*The prophet’s refusal to sit at a celebration table was another symbol of

 judgment to come.

 \*Even the great events of life lost all meaning when the entire society was about

 to come to a crashing halt!

 \***Do not walk down an aisle or go to a funeral or throw a party before you**

 **get right with God! God wants our lives to count for Him! It’s not about us! It’s**

 **about Him!!**

**II. GOD’S ASSESSMENT 16:10-12; 17:1-2** *SIN*

This is where we carry out this assignment.

***A. Denial 10***

**1.** The people are shown. They have a living illustration. They are in denial.

 **2.** *“Who me? What did I do? I didn’t do it! Even if I did it, it wasn’t that bad!*

 *Who does God think He is threatening me like that?”*

**3.** They were guilty. They did not worship God alone. They put other gods before

 Him. Many are in denial!!

***B. Details 11,12***

Let’s face the facts!

1. It shows that parents lead the way and children follow.
2. What parents do in moderation (normally) children do in excess!
3. *You have done worse than your fathers.*
4. How true this is. Look at America: They have walked after other gods and served them. They have forsaken Me and not kept my Law.
5. Worse: ***They walk after the imagination of your evil heart. You won’t listen to Me!!***

***C. Determination 17:1,2***

 **1. Your Heart 1** *Sin is written in your heart!*

 **2. Your Heritage 2**

 **\***It’s passed on to your children.

 \*As they remember their children, they remember their altars of pagan gods.

 \*What are we leaving our children???

**III. GOD’S ALLOTMENT 16:13, 16-18; 17:3,4** *SEVERITY*

Sin must be paid for! The wages of sin is death!

 ***A. Severity Of Intensification 13***

**1.** They will be carried off to Babylon. *Do you want idols? I’ll give you idols!*

 *You will serve them day and night!*

**2.** God gives you what you want…addiction…alcohol…drugs…freedom from

 restraints…pleasure...We become captured by what we thought we wanted

 until we are sick of it. **We are on assignment among captive people!**

 ***B. Severity Of Initiation 16*** *Chased and caught*

**1.** God sends fishermen and hunters.

 **2.** *They shall hunt you everywhere.* The Babylonians would cast a net over Jerusalem

 and drag them North. There would be no escape.

 **3.** You cannot escape the wrath of God or his huntsmen as He brings you to the end

 of yourself. ***The Hounds of Heaven by Francis Thompson***

 ***C. Severity Of Inspection 17***

**1.** The all seeing eye of God…God sees everything. No one needs to inform Him.

 **2.** *All their ways…All their iniquities (bad)…*God knows where you are!

 ***D. Severity Of Intimidation 18; 17:3-****4*

**1.** This is not a double payment, but a full and complete payment.

 **2.** The payment is worthy of the offense. *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The*

 *wages of sin is death…*

**3.** Our assignment is among those who are dead. Only God can make alive!!

**IV. GOD’S ANSWER 16:14-15, 19-21** *SALVATION*

Paul’s assignment was *to open their eyes…to turn them from darkness to light…from the*

 *power of Satan to the power of God.*

***A. Salvation From The Nations 14-15***

**1. Suddenly there is grace.** This is not merely a returning from the Exile. It is a

 restoring of Israel in the last days.

 **2.** This is greater than the Exodus: *from the north and all of the lands…*they return to Israel.

 **3.** *I will bring them again.* **Jeremiah was part of something bigger than his lifetime.**

 **God has a plan and He’s right on time! WE ARE PART OF THAT PLAN!!**

***B. Salvation For The Nations 19-22*** *Salvation of the nations…*

**1.** In the Millennial Kingdom the whole world will worship Jesus Christ!

 **2.** It was a staggering promise. These pagans that were bent on destroying God’s

 people would become the object of His grace! Vss. 19b, 20 Even the most

 wicked will come to God in faith and repentance. **False gods are no gods!**

 **3.** God took on Himself the responsibility of salvation for the nations. *To teach*

 *them His power and His might.* This will be true in the Millennium.

 **4.** It happens whenever the spirit of God comes into the heart of one who is lost.

***Only God can teach a sinner to obey!***

***We are “ON ASSIGNMENT”. We are part of that process!!***