Jeremiah 20:1-18

*“When Life Has You Down”*

Introduction:

1. Have you fallen into the Slough of Despond? Are you down?

2. Jeremiah 20 Jeremiah is down:

Have you fallen into the Slough of Despond? Are you down?

**I. THE REASONS FOR BEING DOWN 20:1-8, 10**

Jeremiah was caught up in himself. He did have his reasons:

 ***A. Retaliation 1-6***

He endured personal attacks when he was in the center of God’s will!

 **1. Assaulted** Pashhur smote him.

 **2. Assailed** Pashhur put him in stocks.

 All Jeremiah had done was what God told him to do. *Heard Jeremiah prophesied*

 *these things.* It’s one thing to suffer for doing wrong, but you do it right and it doesn’t turn

 out asyou had planned. That hurts!

 ***B. Revelation 7a***

 *He imagined divine deceit.*

1. He was disappointed with God. *O Lord you seduced me…you deceived me and I*

 *was deceived.*

1. God had told him straight up that it wouldn’t be easy. In the midst of the battle:

 *You are stronger than I…you overcame me.* God let him down.

1. That’s what he thought! If you feel something long enough, you will believe it!

 Then you will act on that false belief system.

 ***C. Rejection 7b***

He experienced repeated rejection.

1. He became a laughing stock all day long.
2. His friends betrayed him. Those he grew up with didn’t understand, so they laughed. **Rejection by your so called friends is hard!**

 ***D. Reproach...Ridicule 8,10***

**1.** *“I put everything I had into doing what God wanted me to do. What did it get me?”*

 *…reproach and ridicule all the day long!!*

1. You are living by the Book and things go sour. Those who have little regard for

 God seem to have it so easy.

1. *I heard the defaming of many…what did they say? Magor-missabib “terror on every side”* This was the same name given to Pashhur (v.3).

 ***E. Relationships 10b***

 *“All my friends watch for my fall...”*

1. “Alone” is tough!

***2. A Psalm In A Hotel Room:*** *“I’m alone Lord…alone…a thousand miles from home. There’s no one here who knows my name except the clerk and he spelled it wrong. No one to eat dinner with, laugh at my jokes, listen to my gripes…be happy with me about what happened today and say ‘that’s great’. No one cares. There’s just this lousy bed and slush in the street outside between the buildings. I feel sorry for myself and I’ve plenty of reason to. Maybe I ought to say ‘I’m on top of it’ ‘Praise the Lord’ ‘Things are great’, but they’re not. Tonight it’s all gray slush. Joseph Bayly*

 ***F. Revenge 10c***

**1.** *We shall take our revenge on him.*

**2.** They want to get even...payback from the people he loved.

 **3.** They are out to get him!

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**II. THE RESPONSES TO BEING DOWN 20:9, 14-18**

 ***A. Disobedience 9a***

**1.** *I won’t speak for God, nor speak anymore in His name.*

**2.** “I quit!” “I resign” “I’m not doing this God thing anymore!”

 ***B. Dejection 14***

**1.** *Cursed be the day on which I was born. Let not the day on which my mother bore*

 *me be blessed.*

 **2.** I hate life. I hate my birthdays! Another year…for what!!!

 ***C. Distortion 15,16***

**1.** *Poor fellow who told his child, a male child is born!*

**2.** *Let that man be like…v. 16*

**3.** Irrationally unfair: despondency overstates and exaggerates the situation....attacks

 and blames innocent people!

***D. Destruction 17***

**1.** Suicide was not an option in Biblical times. This is close to suicidal despair.

 **2.** *Because He slew me not from the womb…I should have been still born. Why was*

 *I ever born?*

 **3.** When life seems so bad: Why go on living? Life can get that bad. You see no way out!

 ***E. Despair 18***

**1.** Full of self-pity...poor me! Jeremiah is caught up in the negatives.

 **2.** It’s all about *“I”, “me”, “my”.* Wrapped up in ourselves, we make awfully little

 packages.

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**III. THE RESOURCES FOR BEING DOWN 20:9b, 11-13**

Jeremiah had the answer, but it took time to take his own medicine.

 ***A. Re-enlist 9b***

**1.** *But His words were in my heart. I could not endure.* Get back on the horse.

 **2.** Jeremiah couldn’t get out of God’s hold on his life. There is no quit. There

 is no getting out.

 **3.** Get back to doing what you know God wants you to do. Why are you here? It’s to do

 God’s will, and you will never find fulfillment running from what God wants you to do.

 ***B. Recognize 11***

That even when God seems silent and absent, He is still working.

 ***C. Relate 12***

**1.** *O Lord of host…let me see.*

**2.** Keep on talking to God regardless of how you feel...turn the situation over to Him...

 Let Him take care of the negative in His time and His way.

 ***D. Resound 13***

Find a way out loud to praise the Lord!

 For what?:

 **1. His Presence 11a** *The Lord is with me…sing praises!*

 **2. His Protection 11b** *My persecutors…they shall stumble. They shall not*

 *prevail. They shall be greatly ashamed. They shall not prosper.*

The battle is His, not mine! Sing praises!

 **3. His Perspective 12a**

*\*The Lord of host who tests…sees the heart and mind.*

 *\**God knows my inner struggles and turmoil. Sing praises!

 **4. His Preservation 13b** *He hath delivered*

 *\**It’s a done deal. *Help… the Holy Spirit pulled Christian from the muddy slough*

 *\****He will set you free!**

***Sing unto the Lord...Praise ye the Lord!!!***

***He Has Set You Free!!!***