

1 ■ **EXCUSES! EXCUSES!**

Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19

2 ■ **Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19**

- *<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” <sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Ah LORD GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.*

3 ■ **Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19**

- *<sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.” <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” <sup>11</sup>And the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see an almond branch.”*

4 ■ **Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19**

- *” <sup>12</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it.” <sup>13</sup>The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north. <sup>14</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land.” <sup>17</sup>“But you dress yourself for work, arise and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.*

5 ■ **Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19**

- *<sup>18</sup>And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup>They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”*

6 ■ **Quotes**

- Don Wilder said, “Excuses are the nails used to build a house of failure.”
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- Benjamin Franklin said, “He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.”

7 ■ **The Bible gives many examples of people who made excuses**

- Moses
- Parable of the Great Supper in Luke 14:15-24
- Jeremiah

8 ■ **1. JEREMIAH’S EXCUSE: YOU’VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!**

- Jeremiah’s Background
  - Father and grandfather had been priests
  - Passed down from father to son
  - Then God threw a monkey wrench into Jeremiah’s plans

9 ■ **Jeremiah’s Call**

- Jeremiah 1:5: <sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
- Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to the nations - “You’ve got to be kidding!

- The Prophets Ministry
- Consider a comparison:

10  **GOD'S ANSWER:**

- Jeremiah found out that God's call is demanding, difficult and filled with problems to overcome.
- Jeremiah bought into God's call
- v. 5 – God said, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."
- The meaning of the verb *know*

11  **2. JEREMIAH'S EXCUSE: I CAN'T DO IT**

- *Jeremiah 1:6: <sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah LORD GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."*
- Moses
- The pastor

12  **GOD'S ANSWER:**

- Our abilities may seem to us to be totally inadequate, but God always equips those He calls.
- *Jeremiah 1:9: Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth."*
- The Touch

13  **3. JEREMIAH'S EXCUSE: I'M NOT READY**

- *Jeremiah 1:6 – Jeremiah said to God, "I am only a youth."*
- "youth" = unmarried man in his teens or early twenties
- Jeremiah was around 20 to 25 at the time of his call

14  **GOD'S ANSWER**

- *Jeremiah 1:7-8: But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."*
- The condition of God's promise
- He goes with us every step of the way.

15  **4. JEREMIAH'S EXCUSE: THE MESSAGE SPELLS DISASTER**

- *Jeremiah 1:14 – Then the LORD said to me, "Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land."*
- Disaster for Jeremiah
- Disaster for the Nation - image of a boiling pot
- *Jeremiah 1:13: The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north."*

16  **GOD'S ANSWER**

- *Jeremiah 1:18-19: And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."*
- Wow! What a promise!

17  **5. JEREMIAH'S EXCUSE: MUST I GO RIGHT NOW?**

- God was commanding immediate action
- *Jeremiah 1:17a: God said, "But you dress yourself for work, arise and say to them*

*everything that I command you."*

- Men had to tie their loose robes together
- "*gird up your loins*" = "Get ready for action!"
- Jeremiah's Excuse: Young - plenty of time - What's the rush?
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18  **GOD'S ANSWER**

- Jeremiah 1:17b: "*Do not be intimidated by them or I will cause you to cower before them.*" (Holman Christian Standard Bible).
- God expects obedience – Right Now!
- Has God called you?
- Will you answer His call today?