



Tuesday, February 19, 2008

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## A Commitment to Worship

### Sermon Three:

### **“Worship through Your Hurt and Your Pain”**

Jeremiah 20:7 – 9; 13 (NIV)

Pastor Darrell Jackson, Sr.

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- One of the most challenging things in life to do is to go against what is referred to as conventional wisdom.
- The term, *conventional wisdom* is defined in Webster's New Millennium Dictionary as the ideas, opinions, or understandings that are considered to be generally accepted by the public.
- Usually conventional wisdom is based on what most people would do in a particular situation such as crying when you are sad, smiling when you are happy, and praising God when things are going well in your life.
- Conventional wisdom also says that most people's worship is negatively impacted when they are hurting or going through a painful experience.
- It is important to note that conventional wisdom is not always right; it is just what is generally believed.
- However, those of us who trust in the Lord do not particularly subscribe to conventional wisdom. We live by a different set of standards.
- Just because everyone else believes something does not mean we have to believe it.
- And, just because everyone else is doing something does not mean we have to do it.
- In I Peter 2:9, Peter writes, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;”
- Unlike the world, we can worship through our hurt and our pain.

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*Continued from the other side*

- We can praise God as we go through times of crisis. (Habakkuk 3: 17 -18)

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

- Refer to our scriptural text and examine the testimony of someone who learned to worship God through his hurt and through his pain.
- In our text, the Prophet Jeremiah finds himself going through one of the most difficult times in his ministry.
- Because of his commitment to speak the truth to a people who did not want to hear it, he found himself being persecuted by the very people he was trying to help.
- King Zedekiah rejected Jeremiah's ministry and totally ignored God's warnings.
- Because Jeremiah had been rejected by the King, the people thought that they could do whatever they wanted to do to him.
- In verse two, Jeremiah was beaten, put in stocks and humiliated at the Upper Gate of Benjamin of the Lord's Temple.
- In verse seven, out of his hurt and his pain he cried out to the Lord; "O Lord, you deceived me". (You let me down.)
- He goes on to tell the Lord, "I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me".
- However, in verse nine, we see something that is so profound. Jeremiah tells the Lord that when he tried to quit, he could not, when he tried to keep his mouth shut he could not, when he tried to stop worshipping Him, he just could not do it.
- Jeremiah says "His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones."
- Considering what he was going through, conventional wisdom would have you to believe that Jeremiah should not have been worshipping and praising the Lord at that time in his life.
- But, look at what he wrote in verse 13, "Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord!"
- Jeremiah found a way to worship God through his hurt and through his pain.
- What about you?