

“Dealing with Disappointments: Learning How to Bear Our Grievs”
Jeremiah 10:19

Introduction: Each of us must learn how to deal with our disappointments in life. All of us know what it means to have our dreams shattered and our plans changed. Sometimes disappointments so crushes a person that they are emotionally handicapped for life. Yet, there are those who rise above the broken dreams and live in victory. If ever a man experienced disappointments and personal grief, it was the prophet Jeremiah. He was called to serve God at a difficult time in history and given a difficult message to proclaim to a rebellious nation. However, he served the Lord faithfully for over forty years having never compromised his message. Notice some of the hardships that Jeremiah faced.

1. He was rejected by those of his own hometown. Jeremiah 11:21
2. Although he was a son of a priest (Jeremiah 1:1), he was rejected by his own family. Jeremiah 12:6
3. He had the disappointment of never being married and having a family. Jeremiah 16:2
4. He was rejected and imprisoned by the religious leaders of his time. Jeremiah 20:1-3
5. He had his manuscripts burned by King Jehoiakim. Jeremiah 36:21-23
6. Jeremiah lived to see his beloved nation overrun by the enemy, and his beloved city and temple completely destroyed.

Body: If ever a man had a broken heart, it was Jeremiah. His book of Lamentations has tear stains on almost every verse. Imagine serving God faithfully for a lifetime and, in the end, seeing everything fall apart. Jeremiah could have died a bitter and broken man, but he did not. He learned how to deal with the disappointments of life. His victory can be summed up in Jeremiah 10:19. *“Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.”* This statement is one of the greatest declarations of faith and faithfulness in the Bible. May we learn from Jeremiah how to deal with our disappointments.

- I. Disappointments Are Expected
 - A. Some people have the idea that faithful Christians escape the disappointments of life.
 - B. Lamentations 2:11- *“Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.”*
 - C. However, God does not promise to take away our tears this side of heaven.
 1. Do you think Adam and Eve was disappointed when Cain slew Abel?
 2. Do you think that Joseph was disappointed when he was sold as a slave into Egypt, lied on by Potiphar’s wife, and cast into prison?
 3. Do you think that Moses was disappointed with the children of Israel when they would not stop murmuring and complaining?
 4. Do you think that Job was disappointed when everything he had he lost?
 5. Do you think that Hosea was disappointed when he was directed by God to take unto him a wife of whoredoms that would not be faithful to him?
 6. Do you think that John the Baptist was disappointed after living his life for God only to die as a martyr?

7. Do you think that Paul was disappointed when everyone in Asia that he won to the Lord forsook him?
- D. Jeremiah 10:19- *“Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.”*
- E. Jeremiah did not try to fool himself into thinking that everything was fine. He admitted that his heart was broken. He openly confessed that he had been wounded by those around him.
- F. Therefore, expect disappointments; it is one of the hard facts of life. Jeremiah was faithful to serve God even to the point of death, and yet he did not live to see his dreams for his people fulfilled.
- II. Disappointments Are Directed
- A. I am sure that there were many times when the prophet thought he had been forsaken by God. Why was not God answering his prayers? Why was not the Word being preached having an effect on the people? Was it really worth it preaching to a hard hearted people?
- B. The first lie that Satan whispers to us when we are disappointed is that God has failed us and that He does not love us.
- C. A.T. Pierson once said, “Disappointments are God’s appointments.”
- D. It takes faith to accept Romans 8:28. *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*
- E. Notice Jeremiah’s declaration: Jeremiah 10:19- *“Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.”*
- F. He did not blame God or other people. He did not try to fight circumstances. He did not try to change God’s mind. He accepted by faith the burden of his grief, and he trusted God to work out His perfect will.
- III. Disappointments Are Elected Jeremiah 1:5
- A. God looked down from His lofty throne in heaven in eternity past and said, “I’m going to need a man, and I will make that man.”
- B. It takes as much divine power to consecrate a man as it does to create a man. To create a person God only needs to speak, but to consecrate a person will take a lifetime.
- C. We need to yield to God’s will and let Him heal our broken heart.
- D. Jeremiah had not been born to do what he liked, but he had been born to do what God wanted.
- E. IMPORTANT: Fight the will of God and it will break you; accept the will of God and it will make you.
- F. Jeremiah did not fight God although he had many questions. He simply yielded to the will of God.
- G. What was the end result? The nation was taken captive and moved to Babylon. Jeremiah was kidnapped and taken to Egypt only to be stoned to death for preaching.
- H. Genesis 18:25- *“That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

Conclusion: What did God accomplish in this tragic story? Our answer lies in Romans 8:29. *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* When Jesus was here on earth, He asked His disciples what people were saying about Him. Their response is found in Matthew 16:14. *“And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.”* The disappointments of Jeremiah’s life were the tools that carved him and polished him into the very image of God. Jeremiah accepted his disappointments and allowed God to use them for His glory.