

“Obedience”

Jeremiah 13:1-11

Introduction: In dealing with the sin of Israel, God chose to use His willing vessel, Jeremiah. This time, the Lord decided to manifest His parable in an unusual manner. It consisted of a purchased white linen girdle, which signified the holiness of Israel and their redemption. The girdle was placed upon the loins indicating the close relationship between Israel and their God. Shortly, the girdle became defiled because Jeremiah was not to put it in water. Further, he was to hide it in a hole of the rock typifying their future captivity. Because of the atmosphere the girdle was placed in, it began to rot and decay much like Israel would during their captivity. Finally, the girdle was good for nothing because of the defilement. This reveals to us the horrible effects of sin, thus revealing how it disqualifies God’s people from blessings. Notice the life of Jeremiah and his message to Israel.

1. The Molding of Jeremiah 1:5- “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...”
2. The Meaning of Jeremiah 1:5- “I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations”
3. The Ministry of Jeremiah
 - a. His Command 1:7- “whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak”
 - b. His Cry 2:2- “Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, thus saith the LORD”
4. The Might of Jeremiah 1:8- “I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD”
5. The Message of Jeremiah 13:1-11- “Go and get thee a linen girdle”

Body: As Jeremiah came into town, a crowd gathered around him. “What is that crazy prophet doing now?” someone asked. Another person shouted, “Look! He has got a filthy girdle around him and has not even taken a bath!” Shortly, everyone hushed and the man of God began to speak. His sermon was short and it was about a dirty girdle. Many people misunderstood the meaning and message that God was trying to convey to them. Several looked on Jeremiah with disdain and contempt. Why would he say those things about God’s people? Jeremiah’s parable could be summed up in one word, obedience. This man of God was simply obeying his Lord in the message he had been given. This is the key to the Christian life, complete obedience. If we would only learn to obey, God would bless us tremendously. Notice Jeremiah’s obedience.

- I. I Heard 13:1, 3, 6, 8
 - A. “Thus saith the LORD unto me” 13:1
 - B. “And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time” 13:3
 - C. “And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me” 13:6
 - D. “Then the word of the LORD came unto me” 13:8
- II. I Got 13:2- “So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD”
- III. I Went 13:4, 6- “go to Euphrates”
 - A. “So I went” 13:5

- B. “Then I went to Euphrates” 13:7
- IV. I Did (He did not just want to do it; he did it.)
 - A. “put *it* on my loins” 13:2
 - B. “hid it by Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me” 13:5

Conclusion: Through this parable, Jeremiah was trying to bring the people to a place of repentance. The prophet was willing to do anything to affect the people with the Word of the LORD. He did not have to understand what he was doing; he just needed to obey. Simple obedience to what God said will unlock a storehouse of blessings to the believer. What would happen to Israel if Jeremiah were disobedient?