

Life Group Notes

Sunday 11th July 2023

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Jeremiah: What Do You See?

Passage: Jeremiah 1:1-19

The great Before (4-5)

Before shapes now. What makes you you? We live in a world we did not create. We did not choose which family we were born into. We did not choose which nationality we were. We did not choose our DNA. All of this was pre-ordained for us. So much of what determines our identity was already determined before we were ever in the womb. Long before we got interested in the subject of God, he was interested in the subject of us! Before it ever crossed our minds that God might be important, God singled us out as important. We are known before we know.

It is natural to object (6-8)

"I am only a youth..." what is your excuse? "I am only..." It's true! He is only a youth. But God says, "I am with you..." You are only a youth, but God is with you.

Endings and Beginnings (9-10)

In these verses there are four deconstruct verbs and two reconstruct verbs. All of Jeremiah will be about Endings and Beginnings. God needs to get rid of the old before he can usher in the new.

What do you see? Beginnings. (11-12). Almond Branch

Almond is the first tree to blossom in the Mediterranean region. A guarantee that winter is over and that summer is definitely coming. A transitional moment. A sign of hope.

What do you see? Endings (13-16). Boiling Pot.

The Boiling pot represents invading armies. Endings and beginnings go together throughout the Bible. Repentance brings an end to old life and faith starts a new life. Baptism is an ending and a beginning. The death of Christ put an end to sin and his resurrection is the hope of new life.

Resilience (17-19)

Resilience. The city of Jerusalem will be besieged and destroyed. Jeremiah, like Jerusalem, will be besieged, but not destroyed.

Suggested Questions:

1. Have you ever read the book of Jeremiah before? Do you have a favourite bit?
2. How does verse 5 make you feel? What does it mean to be chosen before you were born?
3. Does anyone feel like they might be at the end of one life season and the beginning of another? How can we pray for you?
4. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus result in endings and beginnings?
5. Which verse stands out to you from Jeremiah chapter 1? What do you think God might be saying to you through this?
6. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do about it?