

Sacred Assembly slide

--include TEXT subscription & key dates, especially Night of Worship (1/15)

SERIES GRAPHIC

(all together)

How would you **ASSESS** your life right now?

What **DIRECTION** are you headed?

(come up one line at a time; same slide)

Who/what is determining HOW you assess and WHERE you are headed?

= that is your source, cue, g/G

{Put this on split screen ... graphic on one side with the bullet points on other side of the SAME slide}

SERIES GRAPHIC

Book of Jeremiah:

- Journal sections
- 627 to 587 B.C. (~fall of Jerusalem)
- 40 years of preaching/teaching without results

Assess Jeremiah's life ...? Direction ...?

Jeremiah 12:1-3a

You will be righteous, Lord, even if I bring a case against you.

Yet, I wish to **contend with you**: Why does the way of the wicked prosper?

Why do all the treacherous live at ease? ²You planted them, and they have taken root.

They have grown and produced fruit. You are ever on their lips, but far from their conscience. ³As for you, Lord, you know me; you see me. You test whether my heart is with you ...

Assessment/Direction Options:

- **Situationally**
- What **people** are "saying"
- Personal **feelings**

Jeremiah 12:5a (NLT)

"If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you **race against horses**?"

2 IMAGES same slide/split screen: Usain Bolt on one side & Secretariat on the other
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/uploads/imported_images/uploads/2021/07/np_file_101752.jpeg

<https://cdn.britannica.com/03/241103-050-6AE609F4/Secretariat-Ron-Turcotte-Kentucky-Derby-1973.jpg>

Jeremiah 12:5b (NLT)

If you stumble and fall on **open ground**, what will you do in the **thickets** near the Jordan?

God has **more and better and harder** for His people.

→ **Made for MORE!**

Ephesians 3:19 (MSG)

Rise to the heights! Live full lives, **full in the fullness of God**.

Assessment/Direction Options = WRONG

- **Situationally**
- **What people are “saying”**
- **Personal feelings**

{all together one slide; keep formatting}

Allow God to assess ...

Allow God to set the direction ...

→ **Open ourselves up to the fullness of God!!**

SACRED ASSEMBLY graphic/slide w/information

Unfamiliar? Unsure?

- **Limited view of God ...?**
- **Wrong job description for God and for ourselves ...?**

Jeremiah 1:1-2

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests living in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. ²The **word of the Lord** came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah.

{one slide; bullets come up ONE at a time}

God is incredibly **personal**.

- Reject anything that makes God less personal
- Reject anything that make you merely a “label”
- Reject any comparisons with other people

WHO AM I graphic

https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.RzHL6244KX_-mws8VBtRlwHaE6?rs=1&pid=ImgDetMain

Jeremiah → NOT sociology, genealogy, & biology → theology

Jeremiah 1:4-5

The word of the Lord came to me:

⁵ I **chose you** before I formed you in the womb; I **set you apart** before you were born. I **appointed you** a prophet to the nations.

God **CHOSE**

God **SET APART**

God **APPOINTED** (~given)

{all together one slide}

The starting point is God, not self ...

I do not have to search, but come ...

I do not have to make the first move ...

→ I am appointed to move in the direction of being a giver.

Jeremiah 1:6

But I **protested**, “Oh no, Lord God! Look, I don’t know how to speak since I **am only** a youth.”

We have convinced ourselves that we cannot and should not race against the horses and that somehow God understands.

Jeremiah 1:7-8

Then the Lord said to me: **Do not say**, “I am only a youth,” for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. ⁸ **Do not be afraid** of anyone, for I will be with you to rescue you. This is the Lord’s declaration.

- 1) Stop any **self-talk** that does not **align** with **God’s words**.
- 2) Do not let **fear win within**.

Jeremiah 1:17-19

“Now, get ready. Stand up ... Do not be intimidated... ¹⁸ Today, I am the one who has made you a fortified city, an iron pillar ... I am with you to rescue you.”

This is the Lord’s declaration.

Redefine **success** → **Faithfulness** to God

{one slide but a,b,c, & d come up one at a time}

3) **Agree** with God’s assessment and direction:

- a) **Reminder/Reassurance**
- b) **Repentance**
- c) **Redemption**
- d) **Return next week ...**