

SERIES GRAPHIC w/email

Mike Tyson quote

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For every invitation from God, there will be opposition.

I Peter 4:10,12

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God ... ¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you.

Jeremiah 20:1-2

Pashhur the priest, the ... chief official in the temple of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. ² So Pashhur had the prophet Jeremiah beaten and put him in the stocks at the Upper Benjamin Gate in the Lord's temple.

{all together on one slide}

Tools of the Opposition:

- **People (“*they ...*”)**
- **Popularity**
- **Physical injury**
- **Appearance (shame; condemnation)**

I John 2:16 (ESV)

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh (*pleasure & protection*) and the desires of the eyes (*appearance*) and pride of life (*achievements; possessions*)—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Opposition does not work by coercion but by suggestion.

We entertain the “thought” → Our interpretation vs. God's revelation

Goal of Opposition = quit or compromise.

Jeremiah 20:3-4

The next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, “The Lord does not call you Pashhur, but Terror Is on Every Side, ⁴ for **this is what the Lord says**, ‘I am about to make you a terror to both yourself and those you love. They will fall by the sword of their enemies before your very eyes. I will hand Judah over to the king of Babylon ...

Proverbs 24:10

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

Jeremiah 20:7-8

You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived. You seized me and prevailed. I am a **laughingstock** all the time; everyone ridicules me.
⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out, I proclaim, “Violence and destruction!” so the word of the Lord has become my constant **disgrace and derision**.

{come up one line at a time}

Jeremiah prays (x7 in the book) ...

with ruthless, even irreverent honesty.

{one slide; all together}

God knows what’s going on.

God works with whatever we bring to Him.

→ **First Commandment is always, “COME!”**

Jeremiah 20:9

I say, “I won’t mention Him or **speak any longer in His name**.”
But His message becomes a **fire burning in my heart**, shut up in my bones.
I become tired of holding it in, and I cannot prevail.

For God to do something THROUGH us (public), He must first and continually do something IN us (private; personal; prayer).

What is God doing TO us IN prayer?

Jeremiah 15:15-16,18

You know, Lord; remember me and take note of me. Avenge me against my persecutors.

In your patience, don’t take me away. Know that I suffer disgrace for Your honor.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them. Your words became a delight to me and the **joy of my heart**, for I bear Your name, Lord God of Armies ... ¹⁸ Why has my pain become unending, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? You truly have become like **a mirage to me**— water that is not reliable.

Recognition: the need to be **with God** in the midst of our reality.

Acknowledgement: our **interpretation of reality** might not be aligned with God

Jeremiah 15:19a

Therefore, this is what the Lord **says** ...

Prayer does not end when we are done talking because God is not merely our **audience**, He is also our **partner** and our **Potter**.

Jeremiah 15:19b

... If you **return**, I will take you back; you will **stand in My presence**.

With God through prayer, we do not/cannot **remain the same**.

{one slide}

Our part: be honest and personal

God's part: revive us

God feels our **pain** but does not indulge our **self-pity**.

1) **Return** to God (in unreserved trust).

If we do not live with unreserved trust in God:

- Trust the illusion of control
- Live cautiously (and/or comfortably) = avoid the race

Jeremiah 15:19

...And if you **speak noble words**, rather than worthless ones, you will be **My spokesman**.
It is they who must return to you; you must not return to them.

2) **Re-establish** priorities.

Setting priorities has to be redone ... a lot.

Jeremiah 15:20

Then **I will make you** a fortified wall of bronze to this people.

They will fight against you but will not overcome you,

for **I am with you** to save you and rescue you. This is the Lord's declaration.

3) **Renewal**: restored, revived, running!

Rosie Ruiz image

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