

God is Faithful

Thank you!

Leadership training

Leadership

Women's Ministries Coordinator

ICWF Presidency

Co-convening with Linda Jaramillo

The MIX in '06

Life-long friendships

Allowing me to speak

I didn't want to do this message... (I don't want to be a Jeremiah – we know what is happening to Jeremiah Wright for his courage of speaking out about unfaithfulness). I want to be a popular, or at least a beloved preacher and teacher. I don't want people to run and hide when they see me coming. My pray has been Lord, don't make me a Jeremiah! But we don't get to choose how God will use us. Earlier in Jeremiah, God sent Jeremiah to the Potter's House and explained that He was the potter and he was the one that molded and fashioned the clay to His use and design.

Why....Jeremiah had a hard life... and a difficult message to deliver

Story of Jeremiah and his message

Abuse

Prison

Instructed to the unreasonable

Purchase a field from your cousin

What are you dealing with right now?

Unemployment – under employment

Gas prices

Food prices

Working harder, but your dollar purchases less

Afraid about loved ones in harm's way

War

Natural disasters

Illness

Growing older

Fear of being left alone

Uncertain future

Will I have money to ever retire? (I received my letter from SSA – I will have to work until 70 just to pay the rent)

Global warming

Environmental challenges (Picture, Oklahoma – destroyed by tornado, but already scheduled for demolition.)

Jeremiah says that God knows what you are going through and has a plan. That plan consists of a time when things will be good. When there will be people worshipping and praising God, there will parties and weddings, the land produce in abundance.

But Lord, I want it right now! We want it right now! We want things and time to be better right now. But are we willing to do what it takes to make things better right now. Are we willing to confess the part we played in creating the problems? Are we willing to humble ourselves and say “Lord, I deserve all the punishment that I am receiving because I have not been faithful or obedient? Am I willing to undergo the shame that that confession will expose me to? Am I willing to submit my will to God’s will? Am I willing to repent and change my behaviors, go in a different direction, the way that leads obedience and to life? Or do I want God to rescue me so I can keep doing what I want to do, the way I have always done it.

Part of God’s anger with the People of Judah was that they kept turning away from God. (I had a friend that only came to worship when things were going bad for him) and other time he didn’t see the need for honoring and thanking God.

I believe that God is telling us something – (as many of you would say – God is still speaking) – things are dark right now

War

Global warming

Weak economy

Every generation is afraid that the next generation will kill us all.

But like Jeremiah – we understand that God will not be angry forever. God will forgive our sins and restore us to a personal and loving relationship. Then we will have joy in his presence. We will have life and God presence...We will have peace in God's presence. God had promised...and God is faithful.