

Doubting God's Care

Jeremiah 20:1-18

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the evening service
Sunday 16th March 2025







1. Circumstances (v1-6)

Our circumstances can give rise to doubt

Jeremiah 20v1-2

¹ When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the official in charge of the temple of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, ² he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD'S temple.

Jeremiah 1v17-18

¹⁷ “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. ¹⁸ Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land.

2. Complaint (v7-10)

We can take our doubts to God in prayer

Jeremiah 20v7

You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived;
you overpowered me and prevailed.
I am ridiculed all day long;
everyone mocks me.

Jeremiah 20v10

I hear many whispering,

“Terror on every side!

Denounce him! Let’s denounce him!”

All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying,

“Perhaps he will be deceived;

then we will prevail over him

and take our revenge on him.”

Jeremiah 20v7

You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived

3. Confidence (v11-13)

We can affirm the truth about God even in the midst of doubt

3. Confidence (v11-13)

- Confess – the truth about God's character (v11)

Jeremiah 20v11

But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior;

3. Confidence (v11-13)

- Confess – the truth about God's character (v11)
- Pray – entrust your cause to God (v12)

Jeremiah 20v12

LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

1 Peter 5v7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

3. Confidence (v11-13)

- Confess – the truth about God's character (v11)
- Pray – entrust your cause to God (v12)
- Praise – praise God in song (v13)

Jeremiah 20v13

Sing to the LORD!

Give praise to the LORD!

He rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of the wicked.

“Jeremiah knew that the highest form of praise was not just to say nice things to God or about God. Rather, real praise means to acknowledge the reality and presence of God in all situations and circumstances, no matter how fraught with contradiction. To go to God with your pain and protest, your anger and anxiety – and to give full vent to them before God’s face is also a form of praise.”

Chris Wright



4. Complexity (v14-18)

We may swing from to doubt to confidence and then back again

Jeremiah 20v14-18

¹⁴ Cursed be the day I was born!

May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!

¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought my father the news,
who made him very glad, saying,
“A child is born to you—a son!”

¹⁶ May that man be like the towns
the LORD overthrew without pity.

May he hear wailing in the morning,
a battle cry at noon.

Jeremiah 20v14-18

¹⁷ For he did not kill me in the womb,
with my mother as my grave,
her womb enlarged forever.

¹⁸ Why did I ever come out of the womb
to see trouble and sorrow
and to end my days in shame?