

SHAPED FOR SERVICE

Part 6 of The Savior King. Jeremiah 1:1-10.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 18, 2026.

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INTRODUCTION

When God needs something done, he calls someone to do it.

- This is very exciting. The Lord wants all of us to work with him to accomplish his purposes in the world.

How does this work?

- We see the call to service illustrated in the life of Jeremiah the prophet.

JEREMIAH 1:1-10 (CSB)

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests living in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. 2 The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah. 3 It also came throughout the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

4 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.

6 But I protested, "Oh no, Lord GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth."

7 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.

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with my words. 10 See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant.

THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF JEREMIAH'S CALL

1. JEREMIAH'S SITUATION - verses 1-3

- Jeremiah was about 20 when God spoke to him. The year was 627 BC.
- The nation was economically strong but spiritually in terrible shape.
- God decided to intervene. He needed someone to speak for him, so he called a prophet - a spokesman to warn the nation.

2. JEREMIAH'S CALL TO SERVE - verses 4-5

- The call to serve the Lord came from the Lord, not Jeremiah: I chose you, I set you apart, I appointed you
- Because God appointed him, Jeremiah spoke with divine, sovereign authority.

3. JEREMIAH'S RELUCTANCE TO SERVE - verse 6

Jeremiah did not believe he was a prophet. Jeremiah was thinking: prophets should be old and great public speakers.

4. JEREMIAH'S RESOURCES TO SERVE - verses 7-8

- Jeremiah looked IN when he should have looked UP.
 - The Lord would tell him where to go, who to talk to, and what to say.
 - The Lord would be with him, rescue him, and fill his mouth with words.
- God would provide everything Jeremiah needed to follow His calling.

5. THE IMPACT OF JEREMIAH'S SERVICE - verses 9-10

- Jeremiah's prophetic voice would accomplish God's purposes:

- “Nations and kingdoms” heard God’s sovereign Word.
- A godless society would be dismantled - “uproot, tear down, etc.”
- A godly remnant would be restored - “build and plant.”

SIX TAKEAWAYS FROM JEREMIAH’S CALL

The Lord has shaped each of us for some kind of service.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (CSB) A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good ...

1 Peter 4:10 (CSB) Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1. **Be open to God’s call to serve.** When he wants something done, he raises up someone to do it. So, have an open heart and mind. It might be you.
2. **Look up, not in.** God does not call the qualified; he qualifies the called.
3. **Ask how you** - with your skills, education, abilities, interests, and spiritual gift - can best serve God’s plans and purposes. Talk to a trusted friend.
4. **Listen to God.** He speaks to us primarily through his Word, the Bible.
5. **Say yes.** Say yes even when he calls you to do something hard.
6. **Expect to feel alive.** When we step up to serve, we partner with God in his great work. What could be better than that?

Jeremiah 20:9 (CSB) ... his message becomes a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones.

YOU’RE INVITED TO THE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

- Register today at the Welcome Center. Or use the QR code in the bulletin.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation about Sunday's sermon.

Read Jeremiah 1:1–10

Observation

Read Jeremiah's protest in verse 6 alongside God's response in verses 7–9. What do you notice about how God addresses Jeremiah's concerns?

Look at the actions described in verses 5–10. What does God take responsibility for, and what does he ask Jeremiah to do? What stands out about that division of responsibility?

Interpretation

God promises to be with Jeremiah and rescue him, yet the sermon describes the threats and mistreatment Jeremiah later faced. How does that tension shape your understanding of what God's presence does—and doesn't—promise?

The sermon says, "Look up, not in." Peter talked about spiritual gifts but also encouraged us to consider our skills, education, abilities, and interests. How do those contrasting ideas (God's power and our abilities) fit together?

Application

What might distinguish honest awareness of our limitations from letting insecurity make our decisions?

Think of a specific opportunity to advance the gospel, strengthen the church (by serving in a ministry), or represent Jesus. Is the Lord calling you to step into this opportunity? Who could you turn to for help in discerning God's call?