

“God’s Word Burns In My Heart Like A Fire!” Pentecost 5

1)

Jeremiah 20:7-13

2)

July 5, 2020

May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance. (2 Thess. 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sing to the Lord! Did you hear Jeremiah say that at the end of our lesson here just a few moments ago? You would think if he said “Sing to the Lord” – something good must have happened in his life. You and I can relate to that – a lot of good things happen in our life. We welcome in the birth of a child or grandchild. We get married or welcome a new son in law or daughter in law into our house. A lot of things cause us joy and make us sing. But if you read through the verses of our lesson and then you remember and consider that Jeremiah was considered the weeping Prophet you know there were a lot of things in life that maybe wouldn't have him sing – at least singing that kind of tune. It probably would have made you want to complain a little bit more at your lot in life and say how terrible everything is.

There was something with Jeremiah that couldn't help him but speak out – could help him not only sing to the Lord but also proclaim God to His people and to do it fearlessly. And the thing that we want to consider today is that same thing that's with you and me. That same thing that causes us to sing to the Lord in good times but even when times are difficult even when things are not going our way. **God’s Word Burns Like a Fire in our Hearts.**

Jeremiah did not have an easy ministry. Relatively speaking, things were not going his way. About 2650 years ago, or about 650 years before Christ, there was impending destruction and judgment that was about to come on God's people Judah. The King at the time Jehoiakim and all of God's people we're headed on a path towards destruction. And it was something that they were causing themselves. They were heading on a path that went far away from the Lord. The national of Israel was split into a northern kingdom and southern kingdom. The nation of Judah to the south was ruled over by King Jehoiakim. In the verses/chapter before our lesson, Jehoiakim literally cut the scroll and used it as kindling to start a fire. Jehoiakim put Jeremiah in the stocks (imprisonment). This is the time in which

Jeremiah was commissioned by God go and preach. He referenced and said in our lesson today a message of destruction and violence is going to come on you. Needless to say, it wasn't a well received message. About Jeremiah, the people called him "**Terror on every side.**" How would you like to be called – **Terror on every side?**

You and I can relate. If we try to warn someone about their sin. When we think about life in our society right now and you have an you tell people how you believe that God created the heavens and the earth in six 24-hour days. And they say about Genesis 1-3 – "You believe that?" God tells us that his gift of sex is reserved for marriage – a lifelong union between one man and one woman. Society and the world around us scoffs at that – and they say, "You believe that?"

Maybe it's not you having a talk with your child or a friend, maybe it's someone that needs to have a talk with you. The temptation is to remain silent? Jeremiah was proclaiming – "Violence and destruction on every side." And he's asking God – is it worth it? Should I just remain silent?

But then he gets to the height of our lesson here today and he says – **God's word is like a fire that wells up in my heart.** It's like a fire in my bones. I can't help but tell God's word to other people. As much as I might want to remain silent or just brush over the sinfulness and wickedness that takes place in the world around me or even in my own life. God wants us to speak up and his share his word both law and gospel with the world and with ourselves.

Isn't it difficult being confronted with God's law? We're told about our old Adam – it wants to rebel against God at every chance it gets. It wants to remain silent every opportunity that it has rather than face ridicule, rather than face persecution.

And about myself? That probably and perhaps is the most difficult thing isn't it? When God's law confronts me. – my Old Adam wants nothing to do with God. It is hostile to God. It is God's enemy.

And yet God's word is like a fire that wells up in my bones – I can't help but share God's word with people.

As soon as we're confronted with the law and convicted, I am reminded that we deserve nothing but death and eternal destruction. Then we hear that good news of the gospel. We hear that that destruction, that wrath has not been given to us but rather it has been cast completely on Jesus. Jesus endured all of the wrath, all of the

destruction, all of the death and eternal punishment that you and I deserved – Jesus paid for all of our sins. He paid for the sins of the whole world. Not only do we have the forgiveness of sins, he gives us that promise of eternal life and Salvation.

A promise that I'm sure wouldn't have been lost on the people God's people from Judah . As they were faced in would go through captivity in Babylon. And when you look can you see and you hear that good news of restoration You can't help but rejoice. It makes you want to Sing to the Lord.

Jeremiah had a difficult time during his whole ministry and it really you hear that in these words of Jeremiah chapter 40. It wasn't easy because of the message that he had to go and preach he was confronted with the aspect of should I keep quiet and remain silent, wants me to as God has called me to do to be his Prophet to proclaim his word fearlessly? And we hear that God's word is like a fire in my heart deep in my bones I can't help but share God's Word.

How can I do that? How can I share God's word? Wouldn't it be easier to just remain silent? Remember the words of verse 11.

**¹¹But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonor will never be forgotten.**

What are you afraid of?

- the dark
- walk into a dark house
- walk into a dark basement
- Other fears
 - o afraid to go to the doctor because we don't know what the doctor is going to say
 - o afraid to go into work because we don't know how long we're going keep the job?

Whatever it is – God tells us here today he's with me like a mighty warrior. We know that God is with us when we proclaim his word. He's standing right there by our side. He's with us like a mighty warrior – he has our back. God wants us to share His Word no matter how difficult it is. He wants us to apply the law, then soothe convicted hearts with the good news of the gospel – to ourselves and

to a hurting world around us. God wants to remind us here today that he is with us too like that mighty warrior.

**¹²O LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.**

We see things happen in our world around us – and isn't it tempting to say – “I wish _____ would happen.” And sometimes there is a little bit of vengeance maybe that's inside of us, especially when we hear about things like social injustice that takes place and is very real in our society. When we see the destruction and civil unrest across our nation. God tells us in his word today that the vengeance and that retribution belongs to the Lord. He is the one who will make all things new on the last day. He's the one who on the last day will judge both the living and the dead. He is the one who will separate the believers from the unbelievers. God will have the final say. What we have to be afraid of? Absolutely nothing.

We know that our eternal Salvation has been secured by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus is there preparing a place for you and for me. We know that Jesus is there in Heaven sitting at the right hand of God working out every single thing for our good.

God's Word Burns In My Heart Like A Fire. It's a fire deep in my bones. And we can't just help but let it out. I pray that you see that you too have God's word and that fire burning deeply in your hearts and go and let that fire burn in the world.

Let's pray – Dear Lord, you remind us what it means to speak fearlessly and proclaim your name. Forgive us for our timidity. And embolden us to let our light shine to the world. In Jesus' name.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)