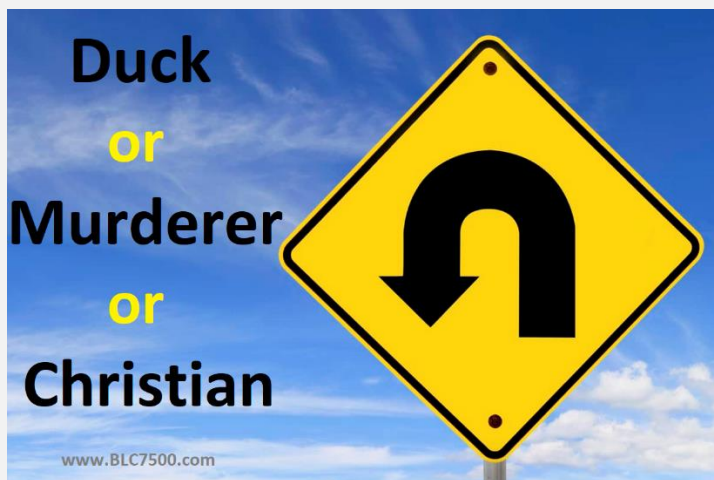


Second Sunday in Lent – 2022

Saturday, 3/12 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/13 at 9:00



Text: Jeremiah 26:8-15 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: **Our hearing of God's truth requires a response.** Here are three possibilities; which response is typical for you?

- **Ducks:** The truth comes to them, *and then it rolls right off their backs*, thus, **no response!**
- **Murderers:** They hate the message, *so they desire to murder the messenger*, thus, **a wrong response!**
- **Christians:** They *hear, think, understand, and follow God's call*, thus, **a right response!**

The setting of today's sermon (Jeremiah 26:1-7): ♣The year is 609 BC, ♣Jehoiakim is the new king of Judah, and ♣the LORD has commanded Jeremiah, *His prophet*, to go into the court of the temple and speak all that the LORD has commanded. The LORD added, **"Do not omit a word!"**

- **The LORD's goal:** That all the people **"will listen and everyone will turn from his evil way..."**

- **The LORD's warning:** If you do not listen, I will destroy the temple and make Jerusalem “a curse to all the nations of the earth.” (E.g.: *May you be like Jerusalem! Or: May you be like the twin towers!*)

We now pick up in **verse 8** to learn their response...

1. **Strong Love Requires a Strong Message:** <sup>8</sup> **And when Jeremiah finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded *him* to speak to all the people, the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, “You must die! <sup>9</sup> “Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD saying, ‘This house will be like Shiloh [*violently destroyed (it was by the Babylonians in 587 BC)*], and this city will be desolate, without inhabitant’?”** And all the people gathered about Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. // They were ▶angry, ▶loud, and ▶surrounding Jeremiah!
  - a. Wrong order: “...**die!** **Why...**” *Immediately* their evil hearts wanted to murder Jeremiah; then they asked him why he said what he said. **This is God's order:** “...be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger...” (Jas. 1:19 NAU). So, **FIRST**, *hear and carefully think!*
  - b. Full force: The LORD told Jeremiah to “**not omit a word**”, so *Jeremiah did NOT soften the message*. Even though many did not trust in the LORD, *they treasured the temple built by Solomon about 350 years earlier*. The thought of it being *violently destroyed* caused them to *immediately become boiling mad!*
  - c. Your response: **Duck** or **Murderer** or **Christian**
2. **Hate the Message? Murder the Messenger:** [In this section, *we read about the response of the rulers and members of the Great Council*. They were not in the temple when Jeremiah spoke, *but they heard the*

commotion and immediately came to investigate what was going on!] <sup>10</sup> And when the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house. <sup>11</sup> Then the priests and the prophets [those who had heard Jeremiah speak] spoke to the officials and to all the people, saying, "A death sentence for this man! For he has prophesied against this city as you [people] have heard in your hearing." // Many who heard Jeremiah were in the "murderer" category, so they immediately called for Jeremiah's death! They spoke ✦to those who heard Jeremiah AND ✦to the rulers and members of the Great Council, who had the authority to legally put Jeremiah to death.

3. **Critical Info:** <sup>12</sup> Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and to all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that you have heard. <sup>13</sup> "Now therefore amend your ways and your deeds [**REPENT**], and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will change His mind about the misfortune which He has pronounced against you.
- Explanation: Everything Jeremiah said **came** ✦from the LORD, ✦through him, and ✦to the people.
  - Call to repent: ☞**Understand** God's word, ☞**believe** God's word, and ☞**obey** God's word!
  - Good News: If you repent (sorrow and trust), *the LORD will not destroy the temple nor the city of Jerusalem.*  
Today: If you repent, *the LORD will not send you to hell* **but** welcome you into heaven!

4. **You Leaders – THINK:** <sup>14</sup> “But as for me, behold, I am in your hands; do with me as is good and right in your sight. <sup>15</sup> “Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, and on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”
- a. No matter what: *That was the attitude of Jeremiah!*  
The LORD told him what to say – TOUGH STUFF, *but he still said it!* When a person is a prophet of the LORD, or even an ordinary Christian, *the LORD calls us to obey Him no matter what!* Then we are called to trust in the LORD to enable us to deal with the consequences.
- b. You leaders are responsible: If they put Jeremiah to death, *their decision would bring suffering on all the people.* Today: Most USA elected reps. **favor** ☹️killing babies, ☹️sexual perversions, ☹️a weak military, ☹️foreign energy dependence – to name a few. *They are responsible – in part – for the troubles in our nation!*

### Take Aways:

- **Truth** – Jesus is REIGNING OVER ALL!
- **Relevance** – It is vital to respond as Christians (*not as ducks or murderers*)!
- **Inspiration** – Jesus has paid the full price and is calling everyone to repent and eternally benefit!

**Let Us Pray:** Lord Jesus, during our troubles, let us always remember Your power and love; then, as individuals and as a nation, let us repent and have Your great mercy!

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