The Call to Rejection

**Read:** Jeremiah 1:4-10 & 18-19

**Text:** Jeremiah 1:8a “Be not afraid of their faces…”

**Introduction:** Can you imagine a military officer giving an order to

do something that he knows will fail? It is not as unusual as you may

think. General Lee gave such an order at Gettysburg. On D-Day men

were ordered into situations where they were not expected to succeed.

Many times military units are sent out as a decoy to distract an enemy

where they have no chance of survival but serve a greater purpose by

the loss of their lives. Jeremiah is sent to deliver a negative message

to God’s people. He is to tell them that God is not going to deliver

them from their enemies. He is to tell them that they need to surrender

willingly and eagerly and become slaves in Babylon. They will be

enslaved there for 70 years. Most of them will die there with no prom-

ise of deliverance in their lifetime. Who wants to deliver a sermon like

that?

**I. Known, Sanctified, and Ordained before conception:** He didn’t

have an argument to claim that he was unqualified. God knew him be-

fore he inhaled his first breath. There was nothing that he could tell

God about himself that God didn’t already know. He tried to claim that

he was unqualified due to his age. The inference of the word child

used here is that he was just a teenager. He certainly would not have

been far out of his teens. What a heavy responsibility for a boy barely

out of his teens.

Isn’t this just like God? He knows you and has known you since you

were in the planning stage. He had a plan for you before you were

even conceived. He knew that you would be right where you are at this

very moment. He is planning to speak to your heart and already knows

what your response will be.

**II. God Knows Jeremiah’s Heart:** in the 7th verse He confidently

asserts: “…thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I

command thee thou shalt speak.” He knows exactly how we will re-

spond to Him. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses far better

than we do. Recently I heard a preacher talk about arguing with the

Holy Spirit. He said that the Holy Spirit had told him to do something

but he didn’t want to. Then as he was arguing with the Holy Spirit he

got a text message from a woman telling him to do the same thing so

he did it. It struck me that he saw nothing odd in resisting the Holy

Spirit but submitting to a human being. Then, as I was preparing this

message, it occurred to me that many believers are more likely to

trust Dear Abby than they are to trust the Bible. We have come to rely

on secular counselors and psycho-therapy more than obeying the Word

of God.

**III. God Provided a Prepared Message:** God placed a recorded

message in Jeremiahs mouth. All Jeremiah was is a microphone

through which God was speaking. He promised protection and del-

iverance. This was very important to remember as he was led to prison

and thrown into a pit. Gods promise is everything that he needs to pull

him through. The promise that his mouth was speaking the very words

of God as well as the guarantee of protection enables him to faithfully

obey God when others would have thrown in the towel.

His message is not going to be received as a positive message. God

intends it to destroy, pull down, and root out the evil behavior of His

people. It is not an easy message to deliver and without Gods’

promises he would have given up.

**IV. God Promised Conflict:** He promised that the rulers and the priests would fight against him but not prevail. He has the same promises for all who faithfully obey Him today. It is found in the 19th verse: “And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.”

**Conclude:** Stand for prayer.