

James T. Jeremiah
The Need of Patience
January 19, 1981

Transcript

James T. Jeremiah:

Thank you, Randy. I plan to use that verse in the message today, and we didn't even talk about it. Isn't it wonderful how God leads in message and song and from the word. Now our president is in Florida, and I thought only preachers my age went to Florida this time of year, but he's probably down there basking in the cold sunshine. Maybe he's out on the beach, riding a tricycle, or he might be down there on the shuffleboard court where all the old folks are. I hope he has a good time and safe trip home. You pray for him won't you? God is using him and we're so glad for him.

James T. Jeremiah:

We've had a great missionary conference. I was able to attend many of the meetings and was challenged by what I heard and what I saw. I understand that in all offerings received for this missionary conference, it totaled \$3,500 and that's great. But, above and beyond all that is involved in the offerings are the offerings of life.

James T. Jeremiah:

It is impossible to have listened to the challenging missionary messages that we heard with all of us being burdened and concerned about lost people and about the will of God in our lives as to what we ought to be doing in reaching them. Several of you on this campus made a decision. You made a decision to say to the Lord "Whatever Lord you want me to do, I am ready to do it. I'm willing to go where you want me to go." There are others who made decisions when they were challenged like that, and refuse to answer in the affirmative. You made a decision and you'll find that making such a decision may cost you something. May cost you a great deal more than it will cost those who made the decision to let the Lord have their lives would ever pay and I want to think with you about a subject that is not always well-received in an audience like this.

James T. Jeremiah:

I can remember years ago when I was arranging chapel that anyone who would come for example, and preach on, on Romans 12, one and two, all but turned off the audience for at least a week and I'm not going to preach on that. But, there is a phrase in the book of Hebrews, and I want to leave with you this morning in the 10th chapter and it says in verse 36 "For ye have need of patience that after ye have done the will of God, ye may receive the promise." The preceding verses outlines some of the proofs of faith for in verse 32, he talks about being illuminated. He said "After ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.". That indicates that when God spoke, there was the evidence of opposition, verse 33, You were made a gazing stock or a public spectacle, both by reproaches and afflictions.

James T. Jeremiah:

There was some difference in the life that caused perhaps some ridicule. In verse 34 he said "You had compassion of me. There was a concern for someone else. In the last part of the verse, he says "You have in heaven, a better and enduring substance" all of this and other references, of course, refer to the fact that when we have been illuminated, when saved, enlightened, if you please, become one of God's children, these things are the consequence, the consequences of it, but then he makes this statement "Ye have need of patience after you've done the will of God.".

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James T. Jeremiah:

I suppose one of the reasons why this particular verse comes to my thinking often is because in a crisis in my life, when I was facing a problem that I could not answer apart from the wisdom and the grace of God, someone sent that verse to me in a letter and it helped me. I thought and believed then, and as I do now that I was doing the will of God, but I needed patience. I needed endurance.

James T. Jeremiah:

You've heard the story I'm sure of the man who was riding on board ship. As the boat came in to port it had to go through a rocky channel. The man said to the Skipper, to the captain of the boat "How can you ever get this boat through the channel, in the midst of a storm with a wind blowing as it is without putting it on the rocks?" The Captain replied "There is an easy way. Out through the darkness you can see the shore and there are three lights. You can see them all three of them, now. When we move the ship so that from the pilot house, I can see all three lights as one, and we move the boat through the channel and we never run it on the rocks."

James T. Jeremiah:

There are some lights that God wants us to see in order. First and foremost is the light of the word of God. If you have made a decision to do his will without having assurance and conviction from the word of God, you have missed the first point and if you don't have that in the time of trial, you'll have nothing upon which to rest. Then there is the inward conviction that the holy spirit gives and finally, there are the circumstances that God produces. So that as you believe his word, depend upon his leading, you can count on God opening the doors.

James T. Jeremiah:

These are in the right order, I think, and many of you've tried that. You've known that to be true and you've been doing the will of God and you've decided, some of you just recently that you're going to make that decision, or you've done it, missionaries and prayer meetings and seminars and motion pictures and all the rest through this week have burdened your heart and you're on course with God now.

James T. Jeremiah:

There are others like the story that it's rather complicated. I'm not sure I can get all the details in it. The man was in the hospital and he had been asked by the insurance company to give a report of the accident that put him there, and he went on to tell the story like this. He said "I worked in a plant and was asked by my superior to move several crates of bolts from the mezzanine floor of the factory, down to the floor below."

James T. Jeremiah:

He said "I could very easily have put the bolts in boxes, spent a lot of time wheeling them on a cart to the elevator, bringing them down to the floor and unloading them again." But, he said "I had a brighter idea." and so, he hooked a pulley to the ceiling of the mezzanine floor put a rope through it, of course. Went down to the floor to which the bolts were to come, fastened it to a beam. Then, he fastened the rope to a barrel, filled the barrel with bolts. Went down again, to the place where the rope was tied, untied it. But, he didn't realize that the bolts were heavier than he was and so while he held the rope,

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the bolts came down, banged him on the shoulder, injured him, pulled him way to the pulley where his fingers went in the pulley. He still hung on."

James T. Jeremiah:

The bolts, hit the floor. The bottom dropped out of the bucket. The bolts went on the floor and now he was heavier than the barrel and as he went on to explain "I headed downward at rapid speed only to meet the barrel coming up again and then it damaged my other shoulder. I fell with a great thud on the bolts. Frightened, of course, I let loose of the rope and the barrel came down and hit me on the head."

James T. Jeremiah:

Now we laugh at that. But, that's what we get when we try to figure out a better way for our lives, none the right way and some of you in this audience will end up as spiritual catastrophes in 25 years. And you smile and say "Not I.". Yes you, because somewhere along the line, you have decided that you can better provide for the proper procedure in your life. Only to find yourself at the bottom of the floor on a bucket of bolts with more injuries than you can ever repair.

James T. Jeremiah:

You say "Why do you say that?? Well, for 28 years, I have watched college kids and I've been out in the churches and around the country and to my embarrassment and my heartache and my sorrow, I have seen some just like you are now, who are not like you are now. They have not been concerned about carrying out their decisions. They have made them under emotional stress maybe, or made them when the crowd made them. They didn't really mean it. After ye have done the will of God you have need of patience.

James T. Jeremiah:

Let's take a few points this morning as maybe markers along the highway of doing the will of God as we think about this matter of patience. Patience is the word endurance, the same word in the scripture and it has the idea of submission. Paul wrote of it in 2 Timothy 2:10, when he said "I endure, I have patience. All things for the elects' sake, I suffer all things for the elects' sake." Then, he said "If we suffer, if we endure, if we have patience, we should also reign.". Now, in the chapter that follows this, in Hebrews, there are illustrations of these truths.

James T. Jeremiah:

You read the story of Abraham and you'll see Abraham in verses eight to 17. He obeyed, he sojourned. He looked for. When he was tried, he offered up Isaac". All through this man's life, in this record of him, you read the old Testament, you'll find his weaknesses. But in the Hebrews account, you will find him as a man who illustrates the subject of submission. "God called him out of Ur of the Chaldees. He obeyed, he sojourned. He waited on God. He was willing to offer up his son, his only son, Isaac. He was submissive and that isn't always easy.

James T. Jeremiah:

You think of this man, who'd prayed and waited from God for a son and then was required of God to give him back and he obeyed. You haven't met the great test yet of what you're going to do in submission until you come to the fork in the way and you have to part company, maybe, with one that's

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dear. One who is going another direction, going to take submission. Another marker on the road is the matter of opposition. In second Corinthians 6: 4&5 Paul speaks about his travels probably through what is now the land of Turkey. He speaks about being in much patience or having much patience in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in labors and then writing to the Roman believers he said "We are to be patient in tribulation." and James' comments on it by saying "Blessed is the man that endureth or has patience in trials. There will be opposition."

James T. Jeremiah:

And I can almost say that between the time some of you stood in one of these meetings or in your heart before God said "I will be obedient." and you meant it from that day until this, somewhere along the line, you'll face some opposition. It's always been true. The child of God, who is willing to obey God, there's an enemy who's out there to trip him and oppose him. Noah knew that. You read about him in that chapter. He faced the, the opposition of ridicule. Can you imagine building an ark and probably build it on dry land? Because the one he built wouldn't float in the Tigris and Euphrates. He built it when there had never been a rainstorm and he built it so huge, as it would take all of the animals. Can you imagine people going down the street and seeing this Saint of God, hammering along with those who were helping him and say "That man has got rooms to rent in the upper story." and he didn't mean the Ark. "That crazy old fellow, what is he trying to do anyhow?"

James T. Jeremiah:

And they will say the same thing about you when you tell folks you're going to serve God. Opposition, he faced not only ridicule, but he had to live in the midst of a godless society. And probably the greatest opposition he faced in it all was the opposition of indifference. 120 years announcing the gospel of his, of his message, no response.

James T. Jeremiah:

The thing that kills preachers, evangelists and Christian workers today is not opposition in the sense that they're going to fight us, but opposition in the sense that they do not care and you will find along the pathway of life as you're doing the will of God, the need for patience and endurance, because there will be that kind of opposition. Another thing that seems to me to be important is the idea of continuation. It's easy in the crowd like this to make a decision, but then comes vacation and then comes graduation. Or then somehow you drop out of school and you're not with a crowd anymore and sometimes I think maybe it's more difficult to live for God in a crowd like this than it is outside.

James T. Jeremiah:

We read in Hebrews 12:1, let us run with endurance, run with patience the race that is set before us. On D.L. Moody's tombstone there is a phrase that you should never forget. First John 2:17 "The world passeth away, but he that doeth the will of God, abideth forever." Let's keep on keeping on, keep on going. Out in the lakes there was a boat, a storm, wrecked the boat. The Coast Guard was called upon to go out and it was a terrible, terrible night. And one young man said to the commanding officer "Sir, it is so bad out there. We can go out, but we cannot come back." And the coast guard commander said to the sailor, "We must go out. We don't have to come back."

James T. Jeremiah:

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Missionaries and Christian workers through the history of the church have gone out. They've continued. They've been steadfast. Moses probably had many things to think about as he continued on his journey, born of parents who believed in God, protected by a mother who was willing to give him over to an Egyptian that he could live. Brought up as an heir, perhaps to the throne of Egypt, living in wealth, then running to the wilderness, being called of God at the burning bush to go back and deliver his people, leading them through the Red Sea, couple of million Jews through the wilderness. He knew what it meant to continue.

James T. Jeremiah:

Continuation. Starting is one thing, continuing is something else. After you've done the will of God, you have need of patience. Also, it suggests to me something of another marker along the way we call determination. James 5:11, writer says count them happy, which endure, have patience. You've heard of the patience of Job. Here was a man who endured. You'll read that book, and he would not curse God and he wouldn't turn around and go back the other way. When all the trials came, he was determined. I believe, dear friend, there is the need among the people of God today for some good old fashioned God given, sanctified, determination and not to quit, not to quit school, not to quit studying. For this is the will of God for you to prepare, to do the will of God in the future. No time to quit. When Paul was sent by the brethren from Berea to, to the city of Athens, it says the brethren sent away Paul, but Silas and Timothy abode, endured, patiently waited there.

James T. Jeremiah:

Don't you to think they wanted to go? They were determined to be what God wanted them to be and I haven't timed this morning to do it, but you'll look at Hebrews 11 and verses, let's look at it briefly, 33 and 36. You talk about determination. We read this book and our hearts rejoice as we see what God did to others and what he can do for us. "Who through faith, subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence and fire. These people believed God and were determined. Verse 36, and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings. Yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment." And when you think of going out in this godless world, at the end of your college days, are out there to serve God today, you're not going out among friends.

James T. Jeremiah:

You're going out there to a world that's not a friend of grace to help us on to God. Need some determination, some backbone. Mean that you'll have to come to hear the word of God and be strengthened in the faith. Sometimes I often think, as I look at, think of chapel, what are students thinking? Well, probably some of them are thinking of their last date and their next class. In that order with more emphasis on the last date. Nothing wrong with that. As long as you see the plan of God, the need of determination, come what may, carry on the will of God. Well, along the way you make some observations. I like this in Lamentations 3:22 to 26, "His compassion's fail not. Great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, he is good unto them that wait for him. Hope quietly and wait for the salvation of the Lord." What am I saying? Along the way, wait and see God perform his work for you. After you've done the will of God, have patience.

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I suspect that the young man who was accepted as a medical student, we heard about today, did a lot of weeping along the way. And it didn't come immediately. You have some goal, some goal, and observed God doing for you, in the will of God, things that will amaze you.

James T. Jeremiah:

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Sad indeed, some Christians can live through their lives and end them about as fruitful as when they started. It's like the young first grader came home. Mother said "What did you learn today?". So, kid said, "Four and four are nine.". She said, "That's wrong.". He said "In that case, I didn't learn anything." And we go through life like that. Enoch, was the man who certainly could have observed walking with God, and was not, for God took him. Last of all, let me just give you a brief illustration of how we are to endure. It's a remarkable one. It's beyond me. I don't understand how all of this took place, but in the first part of Hebrews 12, as the writer of the book makes application of what has already been written. He said, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him" What did he do?

James T. Jeremiah:

"He endured the cross. Or consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself. Lest you wearied and faint in your mind, in verse seven, if ye endure chastening. If you have patience. He patiently went to the cross. An illustration of how we, as believers, are to do the will of God. I hear people talk about Jesus going to the garden of Gethsemane and praying to get out of the cross. I don't think he did. I believe he went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray, and he was concerned that there should not be a premature death. The cross was in his plan from the foundation of the world and he endured. Listen to me, when you're tempted to step out of the way, when you're tempted to sin and ruin your life. When you're tempted to forget the decisions you've made, take a look at the cross, be reminded of the savior, who bore your sins, bore my sins, and his body on the tree. He endured the will of God for me. God helping me, I want to endure the will of God for him.

James T. Jeremiah:

One man giving his testimony said "I have been saved by my good looks." He said "I went to church one day and the preacher announced 'Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth. I am God, there's none else. And that was a good look. I looked and was saved. And then he said, I went back later, and he said, I heard him say, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith. I saw him as he died. And now I see him as he lives empowering me to serve.'" "One day," he said, "I heard the preacher say "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and savior. And that motivated me to serve. I was saved and I was delivered and I keep on going," he said, "because of my good looks".

James T. Jeremiah:

May God give us some good looks like that, and keep doing the will of God patiently. Father, we thank you for this hour and for this word from the book. We pray for young people here today who may be facing some real heartaches and real decisions. Keep their eyes on Jesus through the word of God and help them to be determined to press on, to serve him. In Jesus name. Amen. You are dismissed.