

God's Calling Requirements Part 29

At The Potter's House

"1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. 7 At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; 8 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. 9 And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; 10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them. 11 Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good. 12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart. 13 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing. 14 Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken? 15 Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; 16 To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. 17 I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity. 18 Then said they, Come and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words. 19 Give heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to the voice of them that contend with me. 20 Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them. 21 Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their blood by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and be widows; and let their men be put to death; let their young men be slain by the sword in battle. 22 Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet. 23 Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger." (Jeremiah 18:1-23 KJV)

Jeremiah 18 is a good passage that can demonstrate how you will fulfill God's calling in your life. Jeremiah responded and cooperates with the way that God wanted him to respond to His call. You can be effective as Jeremiah as you respond to the call of God.

1. Go where God wants you to go: "1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words." (Jeremiah 18:1-2 KJV) "1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." (Jeremiah 18:1-2 NIV) Go where God wants you to go. To school, to hospital, to clinic, to the market, etc. The Lord would tell you certain message in certain places and not in another place or where you are. The reason behind that is that you need to see certain things before you can grasp deeply the message of God and what He is telling you. For example God speaks to my wife when she is in the garden farming. *"3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it." (Jeremiah 18:3-4 KJV) "3 So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. 4 But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him." (Jeremiah 18:3-4 NIV)* When Jeremiah saw the potter working on the clay and was trying to shape it, again and again even when it was marred, the Lord use that imagery to speak and convey His message to Jeremiah with a visual illustration, *"5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel." (Jeremiah 18:5-6 KJV) "5 Then the word of the LORD came to me. 6 He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel." (Jeremiah 18:5-6 NIV)* *The Lord will use with you certain imagery illustration and when you are there and looking of what is going on, then you would hear the voice of the Lord speaking to you.* So learn to hear the voice of God in the places that He is sending you to. Jeremiah saw how the potter had the full power and authority to shape and reshape the clay in the way that He want and wish, and that was the message; God is able and can do to His people whatever He wishes. God is able and He is going to reshape His church in the way that He wants it to be. He can deal with our sins and He will reward us for our obedience.

2. Understand the doctrine of God clearly: "7 At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; 8 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. 9 And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; 10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them." (Jeremiah 18:7-10 KJV) "7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9 And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it." (Jeremiah 18:7-10 NIV) There are many people who claim the promises to receive blessings from Him and that is correct. But that will not be possible if they are not obeying God and abiding with His Word and precepts. As you can read in verses 9 and 10 that even if God promised good to a nation but that nation or people do not deserve it, then God will relent from giving them His favor. In the same way if God promised punishment for a wicked nation, and that nation would respond to the warning of God and repent of their sins, then God will relent from sending His punishment to that nation as you can read in verses 7 and 8. Even today, the great nations that known to be Christian nation and are disobedient to God, through their abusing them the grace

of God and allowing idols, un-lawful marriages, immoralities and homosexual, and transgender to enter their churches the Lord is going to bring His wrath on them after he promised good things because they refused to repent.

3. Inform the people about God's plan for them: *"Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."* (Jeremiah 18:11 KJV) *"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'"* (Jeremiah 18:11 NIV)

Many who preach the gospel they tell the people that God had good plans for them and they quote *Jeremiah 29:11*, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* (Jeremiah 29:11 KJV) *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV) That is correct but need to be explained adequately. *Jeremiah 29:11*, is true only after the people had repented. But if they are in sin and non-repent, then you need to tell them what is in *Jeremiah 18:11*, *Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, devising a plan against you.*

When the people of God are in sin, then *Jeremiah 18:11* is the accurate message to the people in order to warn them and lead them to turn from their evil ways. *Jeremiah 18* described clearly how rebellious people speak and behave as you can read here in the following verses: *"12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.* (the born again churches continue to this very day toward their celebrations and parties for their idols, in immoralities, in unlawful marriages, and in homosexual and transgender). *13 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing.* (They are doing horrible things against God and against His will). *14 Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken?* (With their persistent disobedience, idol worship, immoralities and the abomination that they are doing, they are forsaking the great blessings of God, and even they jeopardize their salvation.

There are four current idols that God is dealing with

- Educational idol, to study what they wish.
- To marry whom they like
- To migrate to live what they want
- To live the style of life that they want to live and in worldly way.

The people at the time of Jeremiah they were planning to go to Egypt, But Jeremiah was telling them, that they need to repent and be willing to surrender to the Babylonians and be willing to pay the consequences of their sins.

They totally forgotten God and they are giving their best to idol worship, and they departed from the right path that God and His Word had ordained in the Scripture). *15 Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to*

stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up." (Jeremiah 18:12-15 KJV) *"12 But they will reply, 'It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.' "* *13 Therefore this is what the LORD says: "Inquire among the nations: Who has ever heard anything like this? A most horrible thing has been done by Virgin Israel. 14 Does the snow of Lebanon ever vanish from its rocky slopes? Do its cool waters from distant sources ever stop flowing? 15 Yet my people have forgotten me; they burn incense to worthless idols, which made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient paths. They made them walk in byways, on roads not built up."* (Jeremiah 18:12-15 KJV) They are stubborn and insist to go on their own plans and ways. With what they do they are forgetting the Lord who created them and saved them. They were worshipping idols, and had worldly practices and norms that will cause them to stumble in their ways and deviates them from God's ways. They had not only forgotten God, but as well as had left the grace of God and the goodness of God and all the good that He gave them and started to follow their own imagination. God said, *"14 Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken?"* (Jeremiah 18:14 KJV) He is telling is any one will leave the good looking snow of Lebanon and its cold nice water? That is what God's people had left the good things and the good life that God gave to them. Therefore to those who are disobedient and reluctant to obey the message of God then this is the message, *"Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."* (Jeremiah 18:11 KJV) *"This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions."* (Jeremiah 18:11 NIV) *In fulfilling to God's calling in your life, in whatever time it needed, you need to warn the people and exhort them to turn from their evil ways and to reform their ways and their action to go in line with God's ways.*

4. Expound to the people the judgment of God: *"To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head."* (Jeremiah 18:16 KJV) *"Their land will be an object of horror and of lasting scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will shake their heads."* (Jeremiah 18:16 NIV) Expound to the people that their sins and rebelliousness will cause God to make them desolate and scattered by removing His blessings from the land and in scattering them. I am declaring to you today if the people will repent and turn back to God, He will allow more plagues to come on them.

When God's people rebel, God will send them to exile and He will not listen to them and will not answer their prayers in the days of their calamity. *"I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity."* (Jeremiah 18:17 KJV) *"Like a wind from the east, I will scatter them before their enemies; I will show them my back and not my face in the day of their disaster."* (Jeremiah 18:17 NIV) *To fulfill God's calling in your life, you need to tell the people that. 'God will cause you to be scattered before your enemies, and in the day that you are in distress and need God, He will show you His back instead of showing His face because He is displeased with you.' Such clear messages will help the people to repent, to renounce all their sins, and to correct their ways and their actions.*

5. Be aware that you will be attacked and persecuted by the people: *"Then said they, Come and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor*

*counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.” (Jeremiah 18:18 KJV) “They said, “Come, let’s make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not cease, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let’s attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says.” (Jeremiah 18:18 NIV) They made a plan against Jeremiah and they will make a plan against you when you declare to them the will of God and the judgment of God against their sins. They will belittling you and will tell you that others are also teaching and prophesying, and even they are better than you in order to undermine the message of God through you to them. That is also what Jesus spoke, when He warned His disciple, and us today about the coming persecution, **“Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you:” (Matthew 5:12 KJV)***

They attack the prophet Jeremiah with their tongues and with their non willingness to listen and heed the Word of God that he was speaking to them, **“Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.” (Jeremiah 18:18 KJV)** But Jeremiah continued to be faithful to the Lord by his obedience in bring God’s Word to the people.

Even when this will take place, you need to be strong and courageous; you do not need to be afraid or discouraged. God is still in full control and He will prove His Word to those who are rebelling against Him.

6. Pray and cry to God for mercy to protect you and to deal with their sins: “19 Give heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to the voice of them that contend with me. 20 Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.” (Jeremiah 18:19-20 KJV) “19 Listen to me, LORD; hear what my accusers are saying! 20 Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for me. Remember that I stood before you and spoke in their behalf to turn your wrath away from them.” (Jeremiah 18:19-20 NIV) When you are attacked by the people, you need to pour out your soul before God and speak to Him all what you pass through and appeal to Him to rescue you. Jeremiah was praying and fasting for the people when they would be having problems. Jeremiah was praying and fasting for them so that God would help them, but when they got well, they turn and step on Jeremiah and wanted to execute his life. Part of our ministry is to get persecuted by the same people that we are serving and helping. The people that were are praying and fasting for them so that God will help them, they might turn and do their best to destroy us, but God will not allow them.

7. Express the love of God in full to the people who are persecuting you: “21 Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their blood by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and be widows; and let their men be put to death; let their young men be slain by the sword in battle. 22 Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet. 23 Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger.” (Jeremiah 18:20-23 KJV) “21 So give their children over to famine; hand them over to the power of the sword. Let their wives be made childless and widows; let their men be put to death, their young men slain by the sword in battle. 22 Let a cry be heard from their houses when you suddenly

bring invaders against them, for they have dug a pit to capture me and have hidden snares for my feet. 23 But you, LORD, know all their plots to kill me. Do not forgive their crimes or blot out their sins from your sight. Let them be overthrown before you; deal with them in the time of your anger.” The prayer that Jeremiah prayed for the people and his request to God to judge them in his anger is very hard and very judgmental and might be questioned by some who would say Jesus say, Bless and not curse. They may say about it is a solesh prayer. That is true, and what Jeremiah did, that his prayer was recorded; he wrote it, and was in public for the people to read and know what he prayed for. He prayed for famine to come on them, and for death to come upon them, upon their children, upon their husbands, for the women to become widows and for their houses to be destroyed suddenly by armies, etc. Was Jeremiah has anger or bitterness and pain toward those people? It might be because they had harmed him, but as well as Jeremiah was honest in his public prayer to God, and that was the way that he truly loved the people when he did not cheat them and hide his hurt from exposing it to them. The prayer of Jeremiah is a prophetic prayer, it means he told in His prayer what the Lord will do to the people who had forsaken God, following after their idols and immoralities, and who had despised His messenger and His Word. Even we pray and we plead with God for the people, if there is no repentance in their lives, the curse of God will fall on them. See now with the Pandemic of COVID 19 that God sent, He destroyed all the idols of the people, the parties, the worldly celebration, the banquets, the travel plans, the tourism, the boasting with education and migration, all these ended with this Pandemic, and more things will take place. The makeup vanished and replaced with the mask and the naked dress replaced with the PPE, and the parties and the celebration vanished and prohibited with fines. Many years I shout and bark, no parties, not eating in restaurants, no celebration and people laugh, no and no and no, and laugh and mock, but now God Himself blocked all these things. And I am today declaring it to you again and again, God will not stop, if the churches will not repent God will send more plagues and more calamities till His people repent, through their idols, renounce their unlawful marriages, the immoralities and all the idols that had introduced to His church, and come back to God in repentance.

God love the people who persecute you. And you need to understand that God in keeping you and sustaining you among them in spite of all their harm and hurt are God’s love to them in continuing sending them His message through your life. And for you to express in honesty all their wrong doing, putting that in writing, and requesting God to judge them is revealing to them God’s displeasure, and that is the marvelous work that you can do to show your full love to them. Charity and love delight in the truth, and so in what you are doing when you tell the people everything face to face you are truly loving them, and in love with them.

My dear and beloved: “14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16 KJV) “14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV) Your willingness to stay where God had placed you and among the people that He requested you to minister is part of fulfilling your God’s calling in your life.

Jeremiah never escape or move away from the people that God had asked him to face, preach the message and proclaim to them God's judgment. He was honest and did not change the message that God wants him to tell to the people. This will be the way to show your full commitment to God's call in your life.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your clear word to me.

Let us confess and renounce our sins.

Lord forgives my sins _____.

Lord I ask you to forgive me my sins of the fear of man and the non willingness to face the people with the message that you sent to me to tell them.

Lord I commit myself to stay where you had placed me and to do the ministry that you entrusted to me to do in whatever detail that you had described to me.

Lord protects me from the people that are angry with me because I faced them with your Word and with your judgment. Lord deliver me from the evil one.

Lord sustains me and sustains the life of the people who are serving you with me. Lord provide all my needs, give me strength to go on and serve you. Lord refill me with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts that I need to spread your Word and to go and make disciples.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to serve you. Lord gives them boldness and sustain them to proclaim your Word and your will to the people that you are sending them to. Lord protects them and provides their needs. Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit so they can go and evangelize and make disciples. Lord let their life testimony attract others and bring them into your Kingdom.

Lord blesses us as a church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enables us to declare your Word in full to those whom you are sending to. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies, new congregations, and to raise up more disciples and workers to serve you. Lord continues to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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