

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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www.magnoliambc.org

Theme Unit: Judah, from Isaiah to the Exile
Unit II: Jeremiah and the Promise of Renewal
Subject: Well... That's a Deep Subject!
Printed Text: Jeremiah 38: 7-13

Key verse:

The King commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die (Jeremiah 38: 10, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) The Courage of Compassion (Jeremiah 38: 7-9)
- 2) Divine Providence in Human Action (Jeremiah 38: 10-11)
- 3) Faithful Witness in Crisis (Jeremiah 38: 12-13)

Introduction:

Ebedmelech intervene with courage to save Jeremiah; this resonates deeply with the African American experience for advocating for justice even in the face of institutional resistance. Just like many of Black Americans who navigated through white institutions while still maintaining their moral compass, and their community responsibilities. Ebedmelech a Ethiopian who was a black person in the Judea court, used his position to speak truth to power. Ebedmelech approached King Zedekiah with both moral conviction, and with practical solutions, this is passionate advocacy with strategic action to get the job done. The care and passion that Ebedmelech took was to use old cast clouts, and old rotten rags to make a rope to bring Jeremiah out of the dungeon was Ebedmelech thoughtfulness, and methodical approach that was required when working for change within the system. It takes courage and compassion in the LORD Jesus Christ to lift up those who have been cast down, by the social system of society.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- The Courage of Compassion (Jeremiah 38: 7-9)

Jeremiah was in the dungeon, where his enemies had left him to die; but this drew the attention of Ebedmelech the Ethiopian who held a position in the King's house. Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian one of the eunuchs which was in the King's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon (Jeremiah 38: 7). Now the King's house was a quarter of a mile to the Benjamin gate: Ebedmelech left the king's house to go and speak to the King (Jeremiah 38: 8). Ebedmelech said, to the King, "My lord the King, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city (Jeremiah 38: 9)." Having Compassion like Jesus Christ is having courage to do what thus says the LORD.

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Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Divine Providence in Human Action (Jeremiah 38: 10-11)**

Now it is worth noting that King Zedekiah did not give orders for punishment but gave orders to stop the damage that was in progress. King Zedekiah gave command to Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, to take thirty men with him, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die (Jeremiah 38: 10). Being commanded by the King, Ebedmelech took the thirty men with him, and went into the house of the King under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 38: 11). It is worth noting once again that Divine Providence in Human Action is having faith, trust and obedience in the LORD Jesus Christ is necessary; for one to do what the LORD Jesus Christ commands.

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Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Faithful Witness in Crisis (Jeremiah 38: 12-13)**

Having a creative solution that came from the LORD Jesus Christ is what Ebedmelech showed when he gave the purpose behind the collection of old cast clouts, and old rotten rags, revealed that wisdom and knowledge comes from the LORD Jesus Christ. Ebedmelech instructed Jeremiah in what he wanted him to do, saying, put now these old cast clouts and old rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so (Jeremiah 38: 12). This shows how true compassion shines through even the smallest details, to help preserve individual's dignity and comfort in their time of need. Ebedmelech and the thirty men with him drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison (Jeremiah 38: 13). This shows the powerful truth; that GOD'S deliverance gives us strength and hope in our most difficult times, even thou we are not always equate to total freedom from all constraints, but shows preservation for the LORD Jesus Christ's greater purposes for our life.

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Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) Have courage to stand for truth and justice.
- 2) Ask the LORD Jesus Christ for wisdom to demonstrate practical compassion.
- 3) And to have faith and trust in the LORD Jesus Christ to care for you throughout life's challenges.
- 4) Allow the LORD Jesus Christ to use you as an effective instrument of HIS mercy in the world.
- 5) GOD'S deliverance gives us strength and hope in our most difficult times.
- 6) Having courage and compassion is to do what thus, says, the LORD.
- 7) It takes courage and compassion in the LORD Jesus Christ to lift up those who have been cast down, by the social system of society.