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“I’ll Just Do It Myself!”

Series: The Weeping Prophet

The Village Church at Shell Point

Evening Service

July 31, 2022

I. **Indictment of Leaders**

A. **Kings – Jeremiah 21-22**

1. **Josiah** – last good king
 - a. Killed at Megiddo in 609 BC
2. **Jehoahaz** (son of Josiah)
 - a. **Jeremiah 22:10–12** (ESV) — 10 Weep not for him who is dead, nor grieve for him, but weep bitterly for him who goes away, for he shall return no more to see his native land.
 - b. 11 For thus says the LORD concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, and who went away from this place:
 - c. “He shall return here no more, 12 but in the place where they have carried him captive, there shall he die, and he shall never see this land again.”
 - (1) Shallum – ironic name, play on words
 - (2) People called him Shallom (peace and prosperity)
 - (3) Shallum = retribution – name of no good omen
 - d. **2 Kings 23:30–33** (ESV) — 30 And his servants carried him [Josiah] dead in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb.
 - e. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father’s place.
 - f. 31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
 - g. 32 And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.
 - h. 33 And Pharaoh Neco put him in bonds at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and laid on the land a tribute of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.
 - (1) The people’s choice
 - (2) Three months
 - (3) Long enough to leave evil legacy
 - (4) Deposed by Pharaoh Neco
 - (5) Would never return
3. **Jehoiakim** – 11 years

- a. **Jeremiah 22:18–19** (ESV) — 18 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:
 - b. “They shall not lament for him, saying, ‘Ah, my brother!’ or ‘Ah, sister!’ They shall not lament for him, saying, ‘Ah, lord!’ or ‘Ah, his majesty!’
 - c. 19 With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried, dragged and dumped beyond the gates of Jerusalem.”
 - (1) Josephus: [Jehoiakim was] thrown before the walls, without any burial.
 - (2) “Don’t cry for me, Argentina”
 - d. Sinfulness
 - (1) **Jeremiah 22:13–17** (ESV) — 13 “Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages, 14 who says, ‘I will build myself a great house with spacious upper rooms,’ who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar and painting it with vermilion.
 - (2) 15 Do you think you are a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father [Josiah] eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him.
 - (3) 16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the LORD.
 - (4) 17 But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.”
 - (a) Builds by unrighteousness; slave labor
 - (b) Ostentatious – mansion with view, cedar paneling
 - i) Kidner – compares him to a peacock
 - (c) Nice house doesn’t make you a king any more than being in a garage makes you a car
 - (d) “He who dies with the most toys wins” was his motto
 - (e) Greedy
 - (f) Ruthless
 - (g) Violent
4. **Jehoiachin** – 3 months; also long enough to leave evil legacy
- a. **Jeremiah 22:24–30** (ESV) — 24 “As I live, declares the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off 25 and give you into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans.
 - b. 26 I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die.

- c. 27 But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return.”
- d. 28 Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot, a vessel no one cares for? Why are he and his children hurled and cast into a land that they do not know?
- e. 29 O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD!
- f. 30 Thus says the LORD: “Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah.”
 - (1) Coniah – (Jeconiah); shortened for contempt
 - (2) So contemptible, if he were a precious jewel on the hand of God, God would rip him off and cast him away
 - (3) So contemptible, hurled into another country along with his mother
 - (4) Ryken: These prophecies also have become facts of history. A tablet in the Berlin Museum lists Jehoiachin along with the oil and the barley the Babylonians carried back to their capital.
 - (5) Like a broken piece of pottery; cast outside Jerusalem in a heap of rejects
 - (6) Written down as childless; while he had children, none would be successful on his throne

5. **Zedekiah**

- a. Jehoiachin’s uncle
- b. Story told first
- c. **Jeremiah 21:3–7** (ESV) — 3 Then Jeremiah said to them: “Thus you shall say to Zedekiah, 4 ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the walls. And I will bring them together into the midst of this city.
 - d. 5 I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger and in fury and in great wrath.
 - e. 6 And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. They shall die of a great pestilence.
 - f. 7 Afterward, declares the LORD, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people in this city who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword. He shall not pity them or spare them or have compassion.’
 - g. Installed by Babylonians as interim king
 - (1) Puppet

- h. Rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar
 - (1) Under siege
 - (2) Ryken: Zedekiah was the vassal who vacillated.
- i. With Babylonians at gate, seems like a death bed conversion
 - (1) Wants Jeremiah's advice; hopeful of mighty work of God on his behalf
 - (2) Too late; God will turn his own weapons on himself
 - (3) God will be the agent behind the agent on his destruction
 - (4) All the mighty works of God will be focused against him
 - (5) He will witness the captivity and death of his people, family, then will die himself
- j. Ryken: Zedekiah was a fool. He thought he could ignore God his whole life and still get saved at the last minute. His example is a strong warning to everyone who feels secure but has not yet accepted Jesus Christ as King. Do you feel that God will accept you just the way you are? Unless you have told God that you are sorry for all your sins and trust that Jesus died on the cross for you, you have a false security. When the Babylonians pound the gates and death climbs over the wall, you will not feel so secure.... Do not expect God to hear you *then* if you refuse to repent *now*.... On that dreadful day many sinners will pray like saints.

B. **Priests and Prophets**

1. **Jeremiah 5:13–14** (ESV) — 13 The prophets will become wind; the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them!’ ”
 - a. 14 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: “Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them.
2. **Jeremiah 5:31** (ESV) — 31 the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?
3. **Jeremiah 6:13–15** (ESV) — 13 “For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.
 - a. 14 They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.
 - b. 15 Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown,” says the LORD.
4. **Jeremiah 8:1–2** (ESV) — 1 “At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs.
 - a. 2 And they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the

host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped. And they shall not be gathered or buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground.

5. **Jeremiah 8:9–12** (ESV) — 9 The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom is in them?
 - a. 10 Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.
 - b. 11 They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.
 - c. 12 Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD.
6. **Jeremiah 13:13–14** (ESV) — 13 Then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will fill with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land: the kings who sit on David’s throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
 - a. 14 And I will dash them one against another, fathers and sons together, declares the LORD. I will not pity or spare or have compassion, that I should not destroy them.’ ”
7. **Jeremiah 14:14–15** (ESV) — 14 And the LORD said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.
 - a. 15 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, and who say, ‘Sword and famine shall not come upon this land’: By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed.
8. **Jeremiah 23:9–12** (ESV) — 9 Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and because of his holy words.
 - a. 10 For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right.
 - b. 11 “Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their evil, declares the LORD.
 - c. 12 Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall, for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, declares the LORD.

C. **Accountability of Shepherds**

1. Ryken: It is hard for sheep to trust a shepherd who eats mutton chops for dinner, is it not? With shepherds like these, who needs wolves?
2. Ryken: From one perspective, the history of humanity is largely the story of bad shepherding. So many political leaders have enslaved their own people. So many religious leaders have ministered to the spiritual detriment of their followers.
3. Jeremiah 23:1–2 (ESV) — 1 “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.
 - a. 2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD.”
 - b. Another play on words (pun)
 - c. Job of the shepherd is attend to the sheep
 - (1) But God will attend to the shepherds
 - d. Ryken: God loves the sheep of his pasture; so he keeps an eye on his shepherds. He holds pastors accountable for their shepherding. If they will not take care of God’s flock, God will take care of them.

D. So what will God do with all that bad shepherding?

II. **“I’ll Do It Myself!”**

- A. **Jeremiah 23:3–4** (ESV) — 3 Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.
1. 4 I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

B. **The Good Shepherd**

1. God Himself will do it!
 - a. Ryken: God promises to shepherd the lost sheep of Israel. He wants the job done right; so he promises to do it himself.
 - b. Gathering
 - c. Make them fruitful
2. God will raise up shepherds who are godly
 - a. Eliminate fear
 - b. Every one will be found – none missing
3. **Fulfillment**
 - a. **Return from exile in Babylon**
 - (1) Good shepherds – Ezra and Nehemiah
 - (2) Ezra 8 and Nehemiah 7 have complete lists of returning exiles – none missing!
 - b. **Jesus Christ**
 - (1) The Good Shepherd

- (2) **John 10:11** (ESV) — 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- (3) **John 10:14** (ESV) — 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
- c. **The Shepherd who gathers his flock**
- (1) **John 10:3–4** (ESV) — 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
- d. **The Chief Shepherd who places good shepherds over His flock**
- (1) **John 21:15–17** (ESV) — 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.
- (2) **1 Peter 5:2** (ESV) — 2 ... shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;
- e. **Shepherd who makes sure none is missing**
- (1) **John 17:12** (ESV) — 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
- (2) **John 10:14** (ESV) — 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me...
- (3) **Luke 15:3–6** (ESV) — 3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’”
- f. **Shepherd who brings in all the sheep, even those from other folds (Gentiles)**
- (1) **John 10:16** (ESV) — 16 And I have other sheep that are not

of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

- g. Ryken: Jesus does not say that other sheep “may” come in, or “should” come in, or “can” come in if they feel like it, but that they *must* come in. If the lost sheep *must* come in, they why are Christians such timid evangelists? Christians often look at their secular friends and have trouble imagining how they could ever come to Christ. The work of evangelism seems so impossible. The work of missions sometimes seems equally impossible, especially in the Muslim world. The world seems to be full of unlikely candidates for spiritual conversion. That is not how the Good Shepherd looks at the world, however. Jesus sees in the world many lost souls who absolutely, positively *must* come in. They must come because Jesus must bring them. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who makes sure that none of his sheep is missing.

C. **The Messianic Shepherd**

1. **Jeremiah 23:5–8** (ESV) — 5 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
 - a. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’
 - b. 7 “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ 8 but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”
2. The Righteous Branch
3. Cf Isaiah
 - a. **Isaiah 9:6–7** (ESV) — 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - (1) 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
 - b. **Isaiah 11:1–5** (ESV) — 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
 - (1) 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the

LORD.

- (2) 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- (3) 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

4. The Coming Messianic Davidic King

a. What kind of king?

b. **Wise**

- (1) **1 Corinthians 1:30** (ESV) — 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

c. **Just**

- (1) **Matthew 25** records what this king will do in the end in separating sheep from goats
- (2) Always making distinctions based on just appraisal of deeds

d. **Safe**

- (1) Keep them from danger

e. **Righteous**

- (1) **Jeremiah 23:6** (ESV) — 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: **‘The LORD is our righteousness.’**
- (2) Pun
 - (a) **Zedekiah = righteousness of the Lord**
 - (b) cf The Lord our righteousness
- (3) Zedekiah – the opposite of righteousness
 - (a) Vacillated
 - (b) Evil in the idolatries of his predecessors

5. **Righteous King – our greatest need**

a. **Romans 3:10–12** (ESV) — 10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;

- (1) 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.
- (2) 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

b. **Romans 3:21–22** (ESV) — 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe...

III. **Summary**

- A. In the midst of the greatest indictment comes the greatest grace
 - 1. God Himself provides the solution

- a. For the sin of Judah
 - b. For our sin
 2. God Himself saves
 3. God Himself is the Good Shepherd
- B. Jeremiah delivers that same message again
1. **Jeremiah 1:10** (ESV) — 10 “See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”
 2. So much of Jeremiah is plucking up and breaking down, destroying and overthrowing
 3. But in the midst of that message we start to see building and planting
 - a. **After judgment – grace**
 - b. **After destruction – mercy**