

Introduction

This week as we look at revelation we want to look at some hindrances that stop us from receiving revelation. Looking at the life of Jeremiah.

Question

What do you find your biggest hindrance is?

Sometimes we are Like Peter stepping out of the boat and walking towards Jesus, just one glimpse at the storm, at the waves, and he began to sink. But Jesus in all His goodness put him back in the boat.

Scripture

Matthew 14:28-29 (New International Version, ©2010)

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

One of the greatest things about this story is Jesus never forced him to get out of the boat, he never commanded him to get out of the boat, it was Peter who said "if that is you Lord, call me", and Jesus said, "come".

For us to really move in revelation, which is not forced on us, it is a surrender of our hearts to go deeper into the things of God. As we surrender we become less, and more of Him is revealed.

Scripture

Matthew 11:28 (New International Version, ©2010)

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Jesus said all those who are weary and burdened come and I will give you rest.

We cannot continue to live out of things that weary and burden us.

We must come to that place of rest, resting in the revelation of the greater one living on the inside, coming to a place of rest in taking JESUS at his Word.

If we come to Him with an understanding of who we are and who He is in us, revelation starts to flow.

We need to be still and know that He is God. He did not ask us to pray about being still, He just told us to be still.

Scripture

Psalms 46:10 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

As we take time to still our spirits, a greater depth of the Kingdom will be revealed in us and flow through us.

We must come to a realisation that we should not be looking outwardly, looking for a song service, or another prayer meeting, to receive revelation of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God and all its benefits are inside us. The kingdom goes where I go.

If we really believe his word about the kingdom being within us, then every time we read or study His Word something should stir inside.

If John the Baptist jumped inside his mother's womb when confronted with Jesus in Mary's womb, how much more with the kingdom of God inside of us, should we come alive.

When we read about Jesus and the things he did and the things he said we would do, there must be an excitement, a stirring in us, for these things to manifest in our lives.

Question

How can we read about the miracles of Jesus and not go and do them?

There are so many untapped things about the kingdom in us that we need revelation of so they can flow out of us.

That's why he says, the kingdom is not a matter of eating or drinking but joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Ghost.

Scripture

Romans 15:13 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So in every believer there is joy, there is peace, and there is righteousness.

Everyone of us no matter whether in fulltime ministry or ministering in everyday life we will always have to draw on joy, peace and righteousness because the troubles of this world and the conflicts are advancing the kingdom with its difficulties are real.

In this study we want to have a look at the prophet called Jeremiah. He had his battles and his doubts just like we do.

In this scripture God talks to Jeremiah about getting some things right in his heart so he could become a mouthpiece and preach the Kingdom. So let's have a look at this scripture:

Scripture

Jeremiah 15:15 -18 (New International Version, ©2010)

¹⁵ LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty. ¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revellers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

Notice in these scriptures the turmoil that was in Jeremiah's heart and mind.

One minute He acknowledges the Lords longsuffering and his own faithfulness to the Word and the next minute He was crying out in pain because of the suffering of the people and the difficulty of his work.

He even suggests that God has lied to him. He says that God was like a deceptive brook and a spring that fails.

Jeremiah was human and had failings but at least he was honest, admitting them to God instead of covering up his true feelings.

He didn't hide behind a religious spirit.

There is nothing wrong with facing the facts but we don't live in the facts we live in the revelation of the promise.

He poured his heart out to the Lord and the Lord answered him. Gods answer comes in Jeremiah 15:19 (amp).

Because of his attitude towards God and the calling on his life, Jeremiah could have forfeited his ministry which really is forfeiting revelation, hearing from God clearly.

He was listening to the attitudes of the people instead of standing true to the revelation of Gods faithfulness.

God does not ask us to ignore our feelings, as that would make us less than human, but he does want us to trust Him to change our feelings and start walking in revelation and faith.

After Jeremiah has his little whinge and sympathy act, as we all do, Gods answer may have shocked him, he said you need to repent. The great thing about God, when we get a rebuke from Him we also get a reassurance.

You can always find faults in anything, but if you haven't got a revelation on how to fix them, it's best to be quiet.

Scripture

Jeremiah 15:19 (Amplified Bible)

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah]: If you return [and give up this mistaken tone of distrust and despair], then I will give you again a settled place of quiet and safety, and you will be My minister; and if you separate the precious from the vile [cleansing your own heart from unworthy and unwarranted suspicions concerning God's faithfulness], you shall be My mouthpiece. [But do not yield to them.] Let them return to you--not you to [the people].

Let's look at eight points out of this scripture that helped Jeremiah to be a mouthpiece:

1. **Thus says the Lord** - we must come to a place of understanding, when the Lord speaks, He is speaking for our benefit.

When God has spoken into your heart it will come to pass, not all this stuff that God said this and God said that and nothing happens, because it has not been a true revelation in someone's heart, just emotions. We make God seem like a liar, when really it is us.

When God speaks He confirms it with His Word.

He doesn't do anything that is not backed up by his Word. That's why the Bible says before you to start building count the cost.

2. **If you return** - we need to return to our first love, get rid of all complications and things that have taken us from the simplicity of the gospel and of receiving revelation.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (New Living Translation)

¹ Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. ² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.^[b]

Question

- 1) Do you ever get caught up with the gospel of the church and all its trappings?
- 2) Do you ever sing songs which are unscriptural?
- 3) Do you ever just take things for granted because you are scared to confront?
3. **Give Up** – each and every one of us has many things that we need to give up. The longer we hold onto them the harder they are to give up. Give up:
 - a) Mistaken tone of distrust
 - b) Despair
4. **A settled place** - This is the place where revelation comes where we still ourselves in that place of peace and fellowship with the father.
5. **Be my minister** - We are all ministers of reconciliation. We are the priesthood of all believers. Every believer has a part to play in building the kingdom of God.
We need a revelation of our part and fruit will come as we minister faithfully.

Question

- 1) As we are all ministers why is it that we put titles before function?
- 2) Is it unusual for Gods servants to become discouraged and endanger their ministry? How?
6. **To separate truth** - we have so many religious saying and formats that have nothing to do with the word of GOD, they become our traditions and we stick to them in case of offending someone.
He says here to Jeremiah to separate the precious from the vile. This is an image of metals.
We need to separate what is precious, which are the graces imparted into us. Also divine revelation.
The vile is human passion, mistrust, impatience and hasty words.

- a) Precious - we need to hold on to the Word and what's being revealed to us.
- b) Vile – as the heat is turned up the dross comes to the surface

7. **Cleanse your heart** - having a true understanding of grace and righteousness helps us remain with a clean heart.

Keeping short records allows the revelation of who we are with CHRIST to be our umpire.

God wanted Jeremiah to understand as He wants us to understand that all our unwarranted suspicions, doubts and confusions concerning Gods faithfulness are vile, and they need to be separated from the precious.

8. Gods faithfulness

In all our doubts, in all our struggles God remains faithful even when we are unfaithful.

Results will be, as God spoke to Jeremiah, it will be the same with us, we will be Gods mouthpiece.

If we stay close to Him, not giving over to popularity or respectability, but staying true to the revelation that He has spoken into our heart.

Notice in this scripture God said to Jeremiah not to yield to people, don't return to them, but let them return to you. It is impossible to please everybody. Stay true even though it may cost you friends, family and some relationships. Stay true to what God has called you to do.