**Jeremiah**

*The Silence of God*

*Jeremiah 40*

Background

* And it came to pass after ten days, that the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah. (Jer 42:7)
* Parunak (commentator)
  + Chapters 40-44 discuss what happened after the fall of Jerusalem.
    - In a word, these chapters show that the people who remain in the land are no more receptive to the word of the Lord than those to whom Jeremiah had previously preached.
  + The repeated emphasis of chapter 40 is how nice people can be and still not be believers.
    - Gedaliah is a fine governor, but his failure to direct his people to the Lord at the moment of their greatest need shows that he is not a believer.
* Ramah
  + Means height
  + Most likely about 5-6 miles north of Jerusalem.
  + Captives would be sent from Ramah to Babylon.
* Mizpah
  + Means watchtower
  + A place that God met with Israel met with God and God made things right.

Jeremiah’s Captivity (v 1)

* Did Jeremiah voluntarily become a captive?
  + 11 ¶ Now Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, saying, 12 Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee. 13 So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rabsaris, and Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, and all the king of Babylon’s princes; 14 Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people. (Jer 39:11-14)

Wisdom from a Lost Man (v 2 – 3)

Jeremiah’s Release (v 4 – 6)

* God was faithful to Jeremiah, though we do not hear directly from God.

A Remnant Remains (v 7 – 12)

* Even in the silence, we can see the faithfulness of God as he spares a remnant.

Good Advice Ignored (v 13 – 16)

* Gedaliah should have sought wise counsel before dismissing Johanan’s advice.
* Why didn’t he talk to Jeremiah?