Devotion #274

**Just Give the Message**

**Jeremiah 7:27 (NASB)** *"You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; and you shall call to them, but they will not answer you.”*

Do you remember the television show, “Kids Say the Darndest Things”? It was about kids’ opinions on various topics like religion and government, as well as other adult topics. It was a funny show because the kids would have funny answers to serious questions. For many years children were not seen as having much value until they were considered adults. In the Jewish community for example, that was age 12. Until that time, a child was not taken seriously by most people.

However, God has often used young people such as Samuel to accomplish His work. Samuel was basically a child when Hannah, his mother, took him to Eli so Samuel could be used of God.

Daniel was a young boy when taken captive in Babylon, but he became one of the greatest prophets in the Bible.

And then we have Jeremiah. He also was a young person who God called to deliver His message to a wayward Israel. Reading the story of Jeremiah’s life, you can get the sense that Jeremiah was concerned that the people would not take him seriously and that the message of God would be dismissed because he was a youth. (Jeremiah 1:7) It was true; the people didn’t listen, probably because he was a young man but also because their hearts were not willing to listen. They were like many people who get lost in their own thinking and ways of living life. When that happens, God and His message gets pushed back further and further.

Often in conversation with people the subject comes up about how we should help others know the truth about God and living righteously. In any case the words of God to Jeremiah ring true for all of us. Our role is to just give the message. It is not our responsibility to change others or to make them change. As much as we know that listening to God is the best for anyone, you and I have no ability to change people or even make them listen. So our job is to just be faithful in giving the message. Whatever the message from God’s Word is that fits the scenario of the person’s life, give it in love.

Even still, people often will not listen. They won’t listen because they have gotten so deep in their sin that God has closed their ears to His Word. That was the case with Israel. They had rejected Him, and that’s why they were in captivity. So the Lord shut up their understanding and even ability to hear His Word, but Jeremiah was to be obedient to God anyway and give the message.

We are seeing the same thing in our day. People don’t want to hear the message, and that’s because God has pronounced judgement on them and closed their hearts to His message. Listen to how Paul puts in to the church in Rome when he speaks of how the culture had abandoned God for their own gods. **Romans 1:24 (NASB)** *“Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them*.” **Romans 1:26 (NASB)** *“ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.”* **Romans 1:28 (NASB)** *“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.”*

As people reject God’s Word, He will continually gave them over to their depravity, but that doesn’t mean you and I stop sharing the message. As much as people are silencing the Word of God, keep giving it as the Lord gives you opportunity, and keep praying for God to be merciful, and maybe He will open their hearts once again. Pray for Him to do so as eternity depends upon it.