

Sermon Notes: *Where Are They Now?*

Scripture: *Jeremiah 37:16–21*

Preacher: Pastor David

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Key Passage Summary

Jeremiah is imprisoned for faithfully proclaiming God's word. King Zedekiah secretly seeks truth, but rejects it publicly. Jeremiah's question:

"Where are your prophets now?"

My Question: Where are God's prophets (hearers/discerners) now

Sermon Focus

God still speaks but are we still listening?

Are we living from a posture where we can hear Him?

That posture is a posture of truth

God spoke to Elder Richards

- **Elder Richards:** Heard God's voice, followed it, exposed hypocrisy in a brother "You can't hide from God."
- **I cannot deny God, because I have heard Him speak to me, and what He said was proven to be true.**

Reflections: Where Are They Now?

- **Abraham** – "*But the angel of the Lord called to him*" (Genesis 22:11)
- **Moses** – "*God called to him from within the bush*" (Exodus 3:4)
- **Samuel** – "*The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times*" (1 Samuel 3:10)
- **Jeremiah** – "*The word of the Lord came to me, saying*" (Jeremiah 1:5)
- **Ezekiel** – "*and I heard him speaking to me ...*" (Ezekiel 2:1–2)
- **Isaiah** – "*I heard the voice of the Lord saying*" (Isaiah 6:8)
- **Paul** – "*He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him*" (Acts 9:4)

Question: *Where are the men and women today who are hearing from God?*

Why We Want to Hear God

For a lot of us, it's because we want success, we want to walk in favour, we want life to be good. We want to know which road to go down so that our lives would be a blessed (happy) one. And we know that God knows all things.

It's in our nature to want to know the future, to be prepared. It's interesting - the fact that God chose to speak through the servants above. He had something to say then and it is my belief, that He has something to say now.

To live in a state of hearing, a posture of truth

If you pray and fast you will hear something, if you intercede, go on a retreat, make time to listen you will hear the Lord, but God wants to speak to ALL of us from a state of hearing. A place where we are sensitive to His Word and Will.

Romans 12:2

*² Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may **DISCERN** what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Greek Word for 'transformed: *Metamorphoō → Metamorphosis*

Like the caterpillar becoming a butterfly, **radical transformation**, not minor adjustment is required to get to the place of sensitivity to God's word and will.

The bible says that we will be able to discern the will of God because we have experienced our own **spiritual METAMORPHOSIS.**

Conform

To 'conform' means to look like something. It means to take on the pattern or appearance or be fashioned like something.

The warning is don't be conformed to the ways of this world. In particular, the mindset and thinking of this world WHY???

Because you are BEING TRANSFORMED into something incredible, and your mind has been renewed.

Renewed thinking: Marks of the Transformed Life

The bible says that we must be transformed BY the renewing of our minds, which means, that the evidence of that transformation is affected by how we think, by what we believe – it's affected by the state of our minds which must be different from the mindset of the world.

The actual Greek word for 'Renewal' means "to have a renovation, a complete change for the better."

We need to embrace God's PERSPECTIVE REGARDING OUR NEW IDENTITY!

This is the answer, this is the key

- Not conformed to the **world's mindset**
- Renewed by the **Holy Spirit**
- Able to **discern**:
 - The **Word** of God
 - The **Will** of God
 - The **Presence** of God

Imagine, if the butterfly was told that it couldn't really fly!

"We are being transformed into something most beautiful".

Colossians 3:10

*¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is **being** renewed in knowledge after the **image of its creator**.*

This verse lets us know that transformation is an ongoing process, I am being renewed every day, I'm battling every day in my mind, to assume my NEW IDENTITY.

And the beautiful thing – is that in the end, we shall resemble Christ.

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Take control of your mind and of your thinking

This is where the battle is won, it's won firstly with our minds and how we think.

We are a brand-new person in Christ, and what Satan wants to do, is keep us incarcerated in the bondage of the old self and its world centric (un-Christlike) mindset. But we must know that we are free in Christ Jesus. It would be a shame for any butterfly to think that it was still a caterpillar. A very big shame, it must embrace and enjoy its new life.

It is from the position of our new life in Christ, that we will acquire the sensitivity to judge or approve all things. It is this truth – the truth concerning our positional transformation – this status, that we must defend everyday.

Takeaway Challenge

- ✓ Am I cultivating a spiritual posture to **hear God's voice**?
- ✓ Am I thinking with a **renewed mind**?
- ✓ Am I living as a **citizen of heaven**, not conformed to this world?