

May 5, 2007

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. Carolyn Cole, Retreat Master

Sermon: *But, If They Had Stood in My Counsel!*

Jeremiah 23.9-22

Psalms 82

Hebrews 12

Luke 17

Additional Scripture:

Resources:

I. Wait

- A. Sit in Heavenly Places
 - 1. Resting in the Word of the Lord
 - 2. Let go and let God have His wonderful way
 - 3. Isaiah 40.31
- B. Standing Firm
 - 1. column holding the weight of a roof is waiting and standing firm
 - 2. Guarding the Treasure as did Timothy w his life
 - 3. Walking with Jesus on the *via dolorosa*
- B. Work while sitting (waiting tables)
 - 1. work for the night is coming when no man shall work
 - 2. Working for Jesus – Deuteronomy 6.4-9
- C. Serve
 - 1. Waiting upon one another
 - 2. Washing one another's feet
- D. Matthew 9-10 is to sit
 - 1. Romans 1.16
 - 2. Guarding the Treasure as did Timothy

II. Counsel

- A. Comes from the Lord
 - 1. Not the board
 - 2. Not the colleagues
 - 3. Not any committee
 - 4. Not your ordaining board
 - a. They can all pray for you
 - b. They can encourage you
 - c. They can come to you like Job's three enemies
 - 1. I mean his three friends
 - 2. and tell you, you have made a mistake

- 5. When the Lord speaks to a willing vessel
 - a. The Holy Spirit empowers you
 - b. There is no turning back

B. John 10

- 1. Cannot hear the Shepherd if you do not wait in His presence
- 2. Cannot obey if you have not heard the Word

C. Deuteronomy 6.4-9

- 1. Listen is to act on what you hear
- 2. Cannot hear if you are not waiting

III. They could have turned them away from evil and to the living God

- A. Preachers are not sitting in the counsel of the Lord
- B. They have run their own way, building their own kingdoms
- C. People are coming to their kingdoms – not the Kingdom of God
 - 1. Like in the days of Jeremiah
 - a. People went to those who said, Peace, Peace
 - b. People want their ears tickled
 - 2. Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea, Joel were faithful
 - a. They waited in the counsel of the Lord
 - b. Amos specifically waited while tending his sheep
- D. There is no authority today from the pulpit or much of any place
 - 1. Preachers have not heard from God
 - 2. Preachers are walking in their own way
 - 3. The people are giving them gifts because they say good things
- E. No one wants to be a prophet
 - 1. You know what they do to prophets?
 - 2. They kill them
 - a. Have you not read the Scriptures?
 - b. In the Old Testament and New Testament
 - c. You will have no friends
 - d. Your promotions on this earth will be few and far between
 - e. If you pastor a church, the numbers will show you a failure
 - f. The world will ridicule you

IV. But they did not

- A. Everyone wants to be voted the most popular in his/her field
 - 1. There is a theology today that says
 - a. If you are righteous – you will prosper
 - b. If you are righteous – you can have what you want
 - 2. It is a theology of false gods
 - a. It almost has the sound of magic
 - b. Just snap your finger, and you can have it
- B. Jesus told the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane

1. Watch and pray
 - a. That ye enter not into temptation
 - b. That you not be caught unaware
2. Waiting is to watch and pray

V. Watch and pray

- A. Ye know not the hour when the Lord cometh
 1. Ye know not the hour of the enemy coming in your life
 2. He steals as a thief in the night
 3. He asks you only to take baby steps
 - a. I hear – choose your battles
 - b. Beloved, there are no big battles with the enemy
 4. Then when you are across the chasm
 - a. You have not the energy to return once you realize it
 - b. You have not the desire to return to the Lord
 5. You have bought into the way of the world
 - a. complacency
 - b. Need for acceptance

Jer 23:29 *[Is]* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *[that]* breaketh the rock in pieces?

Jer 23:30 Therefore, behold, I *[am]* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.

Jer 23:31 Behold, I *[am]* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.

Jer 23:32 Behold, I *[am]* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

Jer 23:33 And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What *[is]* the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD.

Jer 23:34 And *[as for]* the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house.

Jer 23:35 Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken?

Jer 23:36 And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.

Jer 23:37 Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken?

Jer 23:38 But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD;

Jer 23:39 Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, *[and cast you]* out of my presence:

Jer 23:40 And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.

Waiting in the counsel of the Lord may cost you your life . It certainly did the last of the Old Testament prophets: John the Baptizer as he was beheaded for speaking forth the Truth of God. Jeremiah was stoned to **death** and Isaiah was sawn asunder. (Jeremiah 38.15). Ezekiel 11.2 Isaiah 8.10 Isaiah 40.31. Will you and I wait in the counsel of the Lord?

Amen.