

May 5, 2007

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

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

Jeremiah 23.9-22

Psalm 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 wait 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.