

Speaking the Word

- Last week I was going to talk about the importance of understanding God's word and this week is about the importance of speaking His word. I realized that we must know the importance of understanding before we begin to speak God's word.
- In last week's scripture Nehemiah and the Israelites just finished the wall around Jerusalem. Then all gathered to hear God's word read by Ezra.
- **Nehemiah 8 ² So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. ³ He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law.**
- **⁷ The Levites...then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.**
- The interesting part of the scripture was after the scripture was read the Levites made sure that all understood the scripture.
- It is important that we understand God's word. I'm not saying that we are all theologians. You don't have to be an auto mechanic to have a good understanding of the operations of a car.
- I remember when I was in electronics school my teacher told us that he didn't expect us to know everything but he did expect us to know where to find the information we needed.
- All of us need to be very familiar with the scripture. Knowing where and how to find the information we are looking for.
- That way we will be able to speak the words of God.
- In our scripture today we are looking at the call of Jeremiah as a prophet to Israel.
- **Jeremiah 1:4–10 (NLT)**
- **4 The LORD gave me this message: 5 "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations." 6 "O Sovereign LORD," I said, "I can't speak for you! I'm too young!" 7 The LORD replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. 8 And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the LORD, have spoken!" 9 Then the LORD reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth! 10 Today I appoint you to stand up against nations and kingdoms.**

- **Some you must uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow. Others you must build up and plant.”**
- First we see that God tells Jeremiah that He has known Jeremiah before he was born. Not only does God know Jeremiah but He also sets Jeremiah apart. Jeremiah’s response was that he was too young.
- We see some other people that had an excuse or didn’t see what God can do through them.
- **Exodus 4:11–14 (NLT)**
- **11 Then the LORD asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”**
- **13 But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”**
- **14 Then the LORD became angry with Moses. “All right,” he said. “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you.**
- Moses was arguing with God. Telling Him that he can’t speak and Moses begs God to send someone else. God provides Aaron to speak for Moses.
- Do you remember the story of Gideon?
- **Judges 6:11–15 (NLT)**
- **¹¹ Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. ¹² The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!”**
- **¹³ “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The LORD brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”**
- **¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!”**
- **¹⁵ “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”**
- Then after several times of God proving to Gideon that he was with him, Gideon followed God and led the Israelites to battle and they defeated the Midianites.

- In both these men they looked at their own abilities to do the work of God and not relying on God.
- That is a lot of Old Testament stuff and we wonder what it has to do with speaking God's word?
- Sometimes we say I'm not good enough or I don't have my own life together. How can I tell others about how God loves them?
- When we think in those terms we are looking toward our own natural abilities.
- Much like Moses and Gideon we are called to share the good news of God.
- We are different, we are called a living stones of Gods house. We are called His priests.
- **1 Peter 2:2–5 (NLT)**
- **4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.**
- **5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.**
- **1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)**
- **9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.**
- We are chosen to be a royal priest, a holy nation, God's possession. Think about it, God has called us into this position of priest. Since we are this holy nation we can show others the goodness of God that we have realized through Jesus.
- It is not an option a privilege to share the gospel.
- **Ephesians 3:7 (NLT)**
- **7 By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.**
- It is our responsibility.
- **Colossians 1:25 (NLT)**
- **25 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you.**
- We should feel compelled to speak tell the good news.
- **1 Corinthians 9:16 (NLT)**
- **16 Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News!**

- Back to Jeremiah.
- **8 And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the LORD, have spoken!" 9 Then the LORD reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth!**
- God puts His words in our mouths as we trust Him.
- God will protect us guide us
- Jesus has given us instructions to go.
- **Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT)**
- **18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**
- Are you ready to say yes to speaking God's truth to the world?