

Book of Faith Bible Study Jeremiah 17:7-8

*Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.*

*They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.*

*It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;*

*in the year of the drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.*

Most of the time the prophet Jeremiah felt more cursed than blessed. He didn't want to be a prophet in the first place, protesting that he was too young and too inarticulate (1:5-8). He struggled for a lifetime with God's call, even accusing God of overpowering him (20:7). Yet God continued to call Jeremiah, and this is how: "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord." Jeremiah trusts in the Lord. He trusts that there is Someone to get angry with. He trusts that there is Someone to notice that he's a laughingstock. Over time that trust in the Lord becomes a trust that is the Lord. God is with this reluctant prophet. Again and again, Jeremiah speaks of his sense of God's abiding presence: "...for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord" (15:20); "...the Lord is with me like a dread warrior" (20:11).

Disciples learn two things from Jeremiah's struggle. First, the prophet tunes our ears to the frequency of blessing. God calls us by blessing. We usually think God calls us by command: "Go and do this..." "Go and be that..." Jeremiah's calling is ours, and once we hear the biblical refrain of blessing, it's like a song we can't forget. Hear it in Elizabeth's greeting to her kinswoman Mary: "Blessed are you among women..." (Luke 1:42). Hear it Jesus' first

As you consider opening Scripture individually or with others, you may wish to consider these general questions:

How does the Bible feed your daily life?

How does the Bible feed the life of this community?

How are we renewed, empowered, and enlivened by the Word?

What stands in the way of our opening the Bible and joining the conversation?



sermon, as he calls out his disciples: “Blessed are the poor in spirit...; blessed are those who mourn...; blessed are the meek...” (Matthew 5:3-5). And we call God by blessing as well. Blessing is the psalmist’s way of getting God’s attention: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name” (Psalm 108:1). In the world according to God, blessings rule.

Second, the prophet shows us how deep blessing anchors us. Whatever storms cross the surface, blessings let us cast a deep anchor in the heart of God. The prophet and the psalmist conspire to remind us: “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper” (Psalm 1:3).

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In addition to questions found in the studies, here are general questions that can be used for each of the texts:

What is God saying to us through this passage?

What does this passage tell us about God?

How does this passage speak to us as individuals and to us as a community?

What does this passage teach us about our neighbors and our world?

Questions on Jeremiah 17:7-8

- *Do we sometimes feel more cursed than blessed? How are these feelings related one to another?*
- *How are we called by the blessings of God?*
- *How are we anchored by the blessings of God?*

