

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### YOU WANT ME LORD?

Based on Jeremiah 1:4-10

*And the Lord said,*

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you..."*

*Before there was a sun and a moon, before there was day and night, before there was water and land, before there were birds and animals, before there was Adam and Eve, I knew you. And before there was history and anthropology and archeology, before there were stories and a sacred text, before there were wars and battles, before there was Columbus and the Titanic, before there were cities and the Great Depression, before there was politics and politicians, I consecrated you. I chose you. I made you holy.*

*You. You. And you."*

*Before I formed you in the womb I  
knew you, before you were born I set you  
apart I appointed you as a prophet to the  
nations."*

*~JEREMIAH 1: 5*

"Ah," you might be thinking to yourself. "How great is my God. How special I am to be a child of His, and chosen by Him."

*And the Lord said,*

*"I appoint you to be a prophet!"*

"Woah! Slow down a minute here! I didn't sign up for this whole prophet thing here. Being a child of God is one thing. Makes me feel kind of warm and fuzzy, you know, but this whole prophet thing? No thank you. Not me."

*And the Lord said,*

*"I appointed you a prophet of the nations!"*

"Look, God, thanks a lot for the offer, but perhaps you didn't hear me the first time. I'm not a good speaker. I failed elocution lessons when I was a kid. I can't carry a tune, so the choir is out. I don't know the scriptures very well, so forget bible study. I don't handle conflict well, so a church committee is out of the question and my apple pie is never up to snuff. Hospital beds makes my skin crawl, so don't ask me to visit anyone, please. I don't mind hosting the pot-luck this spring, if that makes you feel better, but as for all the rest, find someone else."

*And the Lord said,*

*"But I chose you. And I chose you. And I chose you. You will go where I send you. You will say what I tell you to say. Because I know you can do it. Remember, I made you."*

"Now don't you try that Presbyterian guilt trip on me. I told you. I ain't no preacher. I don't even know what a prophet is supposed to do. What would I say? Who would I talk to. I'll just end up looking like an idiot at the end of it all, and now what good will that be for the church. We got problems enough as it is."

*And the Lord said, "Don't be afraid. I will stay with you."*

*And the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my lips.*

*"There now, God said, I have put My words into your mouth.  
Now you will know what to say.  
Now you will know where to go.  
Now you can be courageous and speak the truth.  
I will stay right here with you the whole time."*

My friends, the Lord has touched your lips, and your lips, and your lips, and my lips. We are all, prophets, a voice for Him in this world of ours. And there is much He needs us to do.

We need to fix some things,

So we are going to need some tools.

We need to end some things,

Which is going to be sad, because it reminds us that things keep changing.

We need to pull down some things,

Things that are hurting others in our church and in our community.

We need to overthrow bad ideas,

Because sometimes we have to raise our voices to make things just again.

And why would we put ourselves through all that?

So we have space to breathe new life into our lungs, and dream dreams again.

So we can build new things, on the sturdy foundations of old things.

So we can sow the seeds of plans and progress that will continue long after you and I have moved away or moved along.

*And the Lord said,*

*"I need you to do these things.*

*I made you so that you could do these things for me.*

*I made you holy and gifted, so that you would have the tools and the gumption and the courage to try.*

*I gave you the words to speak.*

*I gave you hands and feet to work.*

*I gave you ears to listen to the cries of the meek and the lonely.*

*I gave you a heart to love.*

So...

*Go.*

*Try.*

*Fix.*

*Build.*

*Plant.*

*Because I know you.*

*Because I chose you.*

*Because you are a prophet."*

Amen.