

# Discipleship Moment

**Text: Acts 6:1-7**

One of the most compelling characters in the Bible (to me, at least) is the prophet Jeremiah. The book of his prophecies and works is a sprawling, haphazard collection which reveals to us that Jeremiah was not a pie-in-the-sky, polished religious speaker. His book reveals that this man was emotional, introspective, moody, critical, and extremely creative. It is not as clean or crisp as Isaiah's book of prophecy, and it is not as high reaching and religious as Amos' prophecy.

In the book of Jeremiah, we get the raw, emotional, human side of the prophet. And if there is anything that makes Jeremiah peculiar, it is his tears. He is called the "weeping prophet:" not because he is a particularly emotional or sensitive person, but because he was a passionate person. He cried over his country (Judah) and his city (Jerusalem). This is probably what defines Jeremiah's ministry most: passion. He had a burning desire to see his people, the Israelites, love, worship, and trust in God above all other things. This passion drove him to follow God's instructions and do all sorts of crazy object lessons: he constructed a yoke that an ox would wear to pull a wagon or farm implement and wore it around his own neck. Then he went and proclaimed to the people that they would be yoked with oppression from the Babylonians. This passion led him to double over in pain, actual, physical pain and cry out to God for relief for his people.

Early in Jeremiah's life, he heard the call from God to be his messenger. God said to him, "Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations." You see, God had specifically designed Jeremiah to do something for his people: to be a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah responds that he doesn't know how to speak in public well and is only a child! But God said to him, "Don't say, 'I'm only a child.' Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say." Because of God's call on Jeremiah's life, and despite all of Jeremiah's inability, God was going to empower and equip Jeremiah with everything he needed. This trust in God's call turned into full-fledged passion.

Just like Jeremiah, God has crafted and molded each one of us. He has given us talents, personalities, experiences, passions, and after we are filled with the Spirit we are given spiritual gifts. By God, we are created with particular, nuanced talents and personality, Jesus calls us to specific kinds of ministry and passion, and the Holy Spirit gives the gifts to compliment those callings and talents.

What are your passions? Is it your home? Your business? Outreach and charity to the poor or sick? Is it world-wide missions? If you feel God's call on your life in those areas, it means he is crafted you to meet those needs. Follow God's call!

## Going Deeper

*Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once.*

1. What do you think it means to be on a team?
2. Have you ever been on a team where some people didn't pull their weight? What was that like? How did that make you feel? Was your team successful? Why or why not?
3. Have you been on a team where everyone worked together well? What was that like? What made you successful?
4. What are some ways you can be part of the team at church? Start a family devotional time at home? Serve on a ministry team? Join a church sports team?
5. Are you part of a ministry team or life group? If not, checkout our ministry teams online or contact Pastor Erik and see where you can get plugged in!
6. If you haven't done the S.H.A.P.E. assessment yet, give Pastor Erik a call and he will help you get going and discover your God-given gifts.