Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary Faculty Retreat Dr. Rick Griffith

28 August 2025 Single Message

NLT 20 Minutes

Title

**Baruch Rebuke**

***Jeremiah 45***

**Topic:** Discouragement

**Subject:** How does God deal with our discouragement with him?

**Complement:** God sometimes rebukes discouragement to humble us.

**Purpose:** The listeners will accept God’s will humbly as leaders.

**Attribute:** Rebuking

# Introduction

### Interest: We are perplexed how to respond to Austin’s rejection—perhaps even discouraged that our colleague has been sent home.

Discourage

### Need: How should we deal with our discouragement with God?

Lady

#### Should we tell God what to do?

#### Should we beg for mercy from the authorities?

#### Should we do nothing?

#### Should we ask since James says, “You have not because you ask not?”

#### Indeed, God can do all things, so maybe we should ask how God deals with us when we are discouraged with him.

Subject

### Subject: How does God deal with our discouragement with him? In what ways does the Lord respond to us when our complaining about his plan harms us (restatement)?

Stickies

### Psychology: We are often taught that the best way to deal with a discouraged person is to listen, avoid judgment, and let the person vent.

### Background: But our passage today shows God’s response to a minor character in Jeremiah’s prophecy. In fact, Jeremiah 45 is the shortest chapter but has a lot to teach about how God responds to our discouragement.

Book   
Chart

Bkgrd

#### Jeremiah arranged his message so that chapters 2–45 prove that Judah’s judgment was deserved.

#### This chapter (Jeremiah 45) is tucked between this section on deserved judgment (Jer 2–44) and the judgment of the nations (Jer 46–51).

Limb

#### Judah was hanging on a limb. Judah’s evil kings had opposed Jeremiah and Baruch, leading to discouragement.

Opposed

### Preview: Let’s first see the problem and then God’s solution to discouragement.

Preview

### Text: Jeremiah 45 reveals both Baruch’s discouragement and God’s response.

(What is the setting of this chapter? What’s the problem?)

# I. Sometimes we are faithful but discouraged (1-3).

MP

[At times, we do the right thing but have the wrong attitude—we complain.]

## Baruch was faithful but discouraged as Babylon began its invasions (1-3).

SP

### Baruch faithfully passed on Jeremiah’s prophecies (1).

1a

#### God spoke through Jeremiah to Baruch in 605 BC when Babylon began invading Judah (1a).

Sons & Prophets

#### Baruch had just finished publicly reading Jeremiah’s warnings of judgment (1b; cf. Jer 36:1-8).

1b

36:1-8

### God acknowledged Baruch’s discouragement (2-3).

3

#### Baruch was faithful to complain (2-3).

#### God was faithful to listen to his complaint—but Baruch had no idea that he was experiencing only the first of SIX deportations!

1st of 6 Deportation

## Are you faithful but still discouraged? God is listening.

Struggle is Real

### Are you struggling with Austin’s situation? God cares.

### Are you discouraged with some other way that you are serving the Lord, but still discouraged? God can handle it.

Subject

(How does God deal with our discouragement with him? Here is our subject that we’ll finally answer.)

4-5

Tombstone

Tozer

MP

SP

# II. God confronts our pride without wavering in his plan (4-5).

[The Lord expects our humility as He maintains His sovereignty.]

## God confronted Baruch’s pride but promised protection despite judgment (4-5).

### God reiterated his judgment of the nation (4).

### God questioned Baruch’s motives (5a).

### God promised protection for Baruch (5b).

## Sometimes we seek great things for ourselves instead of for God.

### Writing prayer letters always challenges my pride. Susan helps.

### Tozer challenges us to check our motivation: "Ask not what a man does to determine whether his work is sacred or secular. Ask why he does it. The motive is everything. Let a man sanctify the Lord God in his heart, and he can thereafter do no secular act."

Subject

(So, let’s get back to our initial subject: How does God deal with our discouragement with him? Simply put…)

# Conclusion

MPI

MI

MPII

### God sometimes rebukes discouragement to humble us (Main Idea). He surprised me in this passage, as I expected him to say, “Now, Baruch, it’s understandable that you feel this way…” but he answers discouragement with a rebuke!

### Main Points

#### Like Baruch, sometimes we are faithful but discouraged (1-3).

#### God confronts our pride without wavering in his plan (4-5).

### Application

Serve with Humility

#### Are you being faithful like Baruch, yet still discouraged?

#### In what way should you humble yourself? Confess your pride? Change your attitude towards gratitude?

### Austin’s example is one to serve God with humility.

#### One thing that Austin wrote touched me: “At this point, we need the virtues that all of us followers of Christ are pursuing: faith, trust, righteousness, patience, endurance, and worship. We would love to ask the Lord for these things in abundance in our hearts!”

Austin’s Text

#### Austin’s focus is not on God to work in his geography but rather in his character!

### My Testimony

21 Feb 2012

#### In 2012, I was trying to be faithful in Singapore, but my employment pass was rejected three times over a period of seven weeks. Susan and I were only three days from having to leave the country on our 21st ministry anniversary! It could have been very discouraging.

#### Yet the rejection was overturned, and God granted us nine more years.

Thought Questions

### Thought Questions (share and pray with neighbor)

Black

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just before this passage?

### Jeremiah arranged his message so that chapters 2–45 prove that Judah’s judgment was deserved.

### This chapter (Jeremiah 45) is tucked between this section on deserved judgment (Jer 2–44) and the judgment of the nations (Jer 46–51).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### The nation would be destroyed, though individuals could turn from idolatry to save themselves from death and exile.

### These five verses warn Baruch (and the exiles) of seeking greatness for themselves. Instead, he (and we) should humbly accept God’s plan, especially God’s safety amidst discipline.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### This is the final chapter of Jeremiah’s prophecies against Judah (Jer 2–45), but it was written in 605 BC, which was almost 20 years before Jerusalem’s fall in 586 BC.

### The context of Baruch’s discouragement relates to 36:1-8…

Jer. 36:1    During the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king in Judah, the LORD gave this message to Jeremiah: 2 “Get a scroll, and write down all my messages against Israel, Judah, and the other nations. Begin with the first message back in the days of Josiah, and write down every message, right up to the present time. 3 Perhaps the people of Judah will repent when they hear again all the terrible things I have planned for them. Then I will be able to forgive their sins and wrongdoings.”

Jer. 36:4    So Jeremiah sent for Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated all the prophecies that the LORD had given him, Baruch wrote them on a scroll. 5 Then Jeremiah said to Baruch, “I am a prisoner here and unable to go to the Temple. 6 So you go to the Temple on the next day of fasting, and read the messages from the LORD that I have had you write on this scroll. Read them so the people who are there from all over Judah will hear them. 7 Perhaps even yet they will turn from their evil ways and ask the LORD’s forgiveness before it is too late. For the LORD has threatened them with his terrible anger.”

Jer. 36:8    Baruch did as Jeremiah told him and read these messages from the LORD to the people at the Temple.

### Bible Knowledge Commentary

c. Jeremiah’s ministry to Baruch (chap. 45)

45:1-3. This chapter was written in the fourth year of Jehoiakim (605-604 B.C.) after Baruch had recorded on a scroll the message Jeremiah was then dictating. The event in view was recorded in 36:1-8. Evidently Baruch was discouraged because of the content of the message. He felt that God had added sorrow to his pain. Much like Jeremiah earlier (cf. 8:21-9:2; 14:17-18; 15:10, 15-18), Baruch was worn out with groaning and could find no rest.

45:4-5. God’s message to Baruch was intended to evoke a response of faith in the midst of judgment. God would indeed overthrow what He had built and uproot what He had planted (cf. 1:10). Baruch’s discouragement came because the realities of judgment clashed with his personal aspirations of greatness. He was not to seek great things for himself because God was bringing disaster. Rather than being sad because God did not provide all he wanted, Baruch should have been thankful that God spared him. God did promise to let Baruch escape with his life despite the calamities happening all around. The response God expected of Baruch was the response of his contemporary, Habakkuk (cf. Hab. 3:16-19). The hope of a godly person in the midst of [Vol. 1, p. 1192] national judgment was to be fixed firmly on God. Probably Jeremiah placed this chapter last in his prophecies to Judah (Jer. 2-45) to emphasize the response that God wanted from godly Jews during the Exile.

# Questions

### When was the fourth year of Jehoiakim (1)?

#### This was 605 BC, which was the beginning of the six Babylonian invasions.

#### Sometimes we are exhausted but don’t realize that it was only beginning!

### If that was long before, why did Jeremiah place it here in his prophecy?

#### No one can say for sure, but this would have encouraged his readers to be patient in exile.

#### It also appears just before the judgments on the nations (Jer 46-51), perhaps to emphasize that God would judge evil soon but we must wait for it with hope.

#### Baruch’s hope was that, despite all that God would judge, the Lord promised to spare his life.

### What event is noted here when Baruch had recorded all of Jeremiah’s prophecies (1b)?

#### It likely referred to Jer 36:1-8…

Jer. 36:1    During the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king in Judah, the LORD gave this message to Jeremiah: 2 “Get a scroll, and write down all my messages against Israel, Judah, and the other nations. Begin with the first message back in the days of Josiah, and write down every message, right up to the present time. 3 Perhaps the people of Judah will repent when they hear again all the terrible things I have planned for them. Then I will be able to forgive their sins and wrongdoings.”

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Jer. 36:8    Baruch did as Jeremiah told him and read these messages from the LORD to the people at the Temple.

#### Sometimes we become weary of serving the Lord.

### What is the relationship between Baruch feeling overwhelmed and also seeking greatness?

**Jeremiah**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deserved Captivity & Undeserved Restoration** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Jeremiah’s**  **Call** | **Judah’s**  **Judgment Deserved** | | | | **Nations’**  **Judgment Deserved** | | | | **Jerusalem’s**  **Fall** | |
| **Chapter 1** | **Chapters 2–45** | | | | **Chapters 46–51** | | | | **Chapter 52** | |
| **Commission** | **Condemnation & Comfort** | | | | **Condemnation** | | | | **Captivity** | |
| Judgment Message but God’s Presence | Pre-Fall  2–38 | Fall  39 | Post-Fall  40–44 | Baruch  45 | South-west  46–47 | East  48:1–  49:22 | North  49:23-33 | North-east  49:34–  51:64 | Fall  52:1-30 | Rise  52:31-34 |
| **Prologue** | **Ministry** | | | | | | | | **Epilogue** | |
| **Judah** | | | | | **Nations** | | | | **Babylon** | |
| **c. 627-580 BC** | | | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Inevitable**

**Key Verses: (Jeremiah to Judah) “…For the LORD our God has doomed us to perish and given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against him” (Jeremiah 8:14b).**

**(God to Jeremiah) “See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant” (Jeremiah 1:10).**

**Summary Statement:**

**The ways God comforted his people were by limiting Jerusalem’s deserved and inevitable fall to 70 years and promising restoration under a new covenant.**

**Application:**

**If we choose to continue in sin we’ll eventually come to the point where God’s discipline is inevitable (i.e., resisting repentance requires breaking before remaking).**

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

**Baruch Rebuke**

***Jeremiah 45***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way God responded to Baruch’s discouragement was to confront his pride but promise protection.

# I. The setting of God’s message to Baruch was Baruch’s faithfulness but discouragement during the beginning of Babylon’s invasions (1-3).

## God spoke through Jeremiah to Baruch in 605 BC when Babylon began invading (1a).

## Baruch had just finished publicly reading Jeremiah’s warnings of judgment (1b; cf. Jer 36:1-8).

## God acknowledged Baruch’s discouragement (2-3).

# II. The way God responded to Baruch’s discouragement was to confront his pride but promise protection despite judgment (4-5).

## God reiterated his judgment of the nation (4).

## God questioned Baruch’s motives (5a).

## God promised protection for Baruch (5b).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will accept God’s will humbly as leaders.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

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### Interest: We are perplexed how to respond to Austin’s rejection—perhaps even discouraged that our colleague has been sent home.

### Need: How should we deal with our discouragement with God?

#### Should we tell God what to do?

#### Should we beg for mercy from the authorities?

#### Should we do nothing?

#### Should we ask since James says, “You have not because you ask not?”

#### Indeed, God can do all things, so maybe we should ask how God deals with us when we are discouraged with him.

### Subject: How does God deal with our discouragement with him?

### Psychology: We are often taught that the best way to deal with a discouraged person is to listen, avoid judgment, and let the person vent.

### Background: But our passage today shows God’s response to a minor character in Jeremiah’s prophecy. In fact, Jeremiah 45 is the shortest chapter but has a lot to teach about how God responds to our discouragement.

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### Text: Jeremiah 45 reveals both Baruch’s discouragement and God’s response.

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[At times, we do the right thing but have the wrong attitude—we complain.]

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### God acknowledged Baruch’s discouragement (2-3).

#### Baruch was faithful to complain, and…

#### God was faithful to listen to his complaint.

## Are you faithful but still discouraged? God is listening.

### Are you struggling with Austin’s situation? God cares.

### Are you discouraged with some other way that you are serving the Lord but still discouraged? God can handle it.

(How does God deal with our discouragement with him?)

# II. God confronts our pride without wavering in His plan (4-5).

[The Lord expects our humility while maintaining his sovereignty.]

## God confronted Baruch’s pride but promised protection despite judgment (4-5).

### God reiterated his judgment of the nation (4).

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### God promised protection for Baruch (5b).

## Sometimes we seek great things for ourselves instead of for God.

### Writing prayer letters always challenges my pride. Susan helps.

### Tozer challenges us to check our motivation.

(So, let’s get back to our initial subject: How does God deal with our discouragement with him? Simply put…)

# Conclusion

### God sometimes rebukes discouragement to humble us (Main Idea).

### Main Points

#### Like Baruch, sometimes we are faithful but discouraged (1-3).

#### God confronts our pride without wavering in his plan (4-5).

### Application

#### Are you being faithful like Baruch, yet still discouraged?

#### In what way should you humble yourself?

### Austin’s Example

#### One thing that Austin wrote touched me: “At this point, we need the virtues that all of us followers of Christ are pursuing: faith, trust, righteousness, patience, endurance, and worship. We would love to have to ask the Lord for these things in abundance in our hearts!”

#### Austin’s focus is not for God to work in his geography but rather in his character!

### My Testimony

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#### Yet the rejection was overturned and God granted us nine more years.

### Prayer

****

**Rick Griffith**

28 August 2025

**Baruch Rebuke**

***Jeremiah 45***

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### Text: Jeremiah 45 reveals both Baruch’s discouragement and God’s response.

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# Conclusion

### God sometimes rebukes discouragement to humble us (Main Idea).

### Application

#### Are you being faithful like Baruch, yet still discouraged?

#### In what way should you humble yourself?

**Thought Questions**

1. What in your ministry of teaching tempts you toward discouragement?
2. How is humility shown as a seminary professor without being “walked all over"?

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