

A JOURNEY THROUGH JEREMIAH
Chapters 37-39
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

I. YOU NEED FRIENDS WHO WON'T LIE BEHIND YOUR BACK
(Jeremiah 38: 1-5)

- a. Being honest will often make us unpopular with co-workers

II. YOU NEED FRIENDS WHO WILL HELP YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN
(Jeremiah 38: 6-9)

- a. Spiteful people will put us in difficult situations (Jer. 38:6)

Psalms 69:2 (NKJV)

² I sink in deep mire, Where *there is* no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me.

Psalms 69:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Deliver me out of the mire, And let me not sink; Let me be delivered from those who hate me, And out of the deep waters. ¹⁵ Let not the floodwater overflow me, Nor let the deep swallow me up; And let not the pit shut its mouth on me.

- b. The Lord will move people to help His children (Jer. 38:7-9)

- i. We need friends who are servants of the King (Ebed-Melech)

- c. You need compassionate friends who will take risks for you

III. YOU NEED FRIENDS WHO ARE STRONG AND GENTLE (Jer. 38: 10-13)

- a. Look for ways to help without causing more damage to hurting people

IV. THE LORD WILL BLESS THOSE WHO TAKE FRIENDSHIP RISKS IN HIS NAME

Jeremiah 39:15-18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Meanwhile the word of the Lord had come to Jeremiah while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying, ¹⁶ "Go and speak to Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will bring My words upon this city for adversity and not for good, and they shall be *performed* in that day before you. ¹⁷ But I will deliver you in that day," says the Lord, "and you shall not be given into the hand of the men of whom you *are* afraid. ¹⁸ For I will surely deliver you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but your life shall be as a prize to you, because you have put your trust in Me," says the Lord.' "

Jeremiah 40:1-16 (NKJV)

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him bound in chains among all who were carried away captive from Jerusalem and Judah, who were carried away captive to Babylon. ² And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him: "The Lord your God has pronounced this doom on this place. ³ Now the Lord has brought *it*, and has done just as He said. Because you *people* have sinned against the Lord, and not obeyed His voice, therefore this thing has come upon you. ⁴ And now look, I free you this day from the chains that *were* on your hand. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you. But if it seems wrong for you to come with me to Babylon, remain here. See, all the land *is* before you; wherever it seems good and convenient for you to go, go there." ⁵ Now while Jeremiah had not yet gone back, *Nebuzaradan said*, "Go back to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever it seems convenient for you to go." So the captain of the guard gave him rations and a gift and let him go. ⁶ Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, to Mizpah, and dwelt with him among the people who were left in the land

IF YOU'RE SAVED, YOU GOT A TRUE FRIEND IN JESUS CHRIST!

Psalms 40:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. ² He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps.

John 15:12-15 (NKJV)

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

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January 8, 2006