

The Divine Tapestry

PART 82

Jeremiah 20:7-18

“When Ministry Drives You Mad”

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“The story of Diogenes and his lamp is one of the best known antics of the ancient philosophers. He was a Cynic, a philosopher who lived in ancient Athens. Ancient literature tells us that ‘he lit a lamp in broad daylight and said, as he went about, ‘I am looking for a man.’”

Salvator Rosa, a seventeenth-century Italian painter, depicted this scene in his painting *Diogenes in Search of an Honest Man*. We see the aged Cynic with a lighted lamp surrounded by a sneering and laughing crowd. But alas ... they lack virtue and true reason. They are not honest. They do not represent the true humanity that Diogenes was searching for.

So it was for Jeremiah. God told the prophet: ‘Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find

but one person who deals honestly and speaks the truth, I will forgive this city' (5:1)." *Holman Old Testament Commentary Jeremiah Lamentations* © 2006 Broadman & Holman Publishers, p. 69

An honest man could not be found ... and Jeremiah's discouragement went all the way to the bone!

JEREMIAH'S HONESTY IS SHOCKING

- Five times Jeremiah goes to the **confessional**.
- Believers will **battle discouragement!**

GOING MAD IN THE MINISTRY

- Jeremiah felt deceived, **disturbed** and **discouraged**.
- Jeremiah experienced:
 - ✓ A **ministry** he could not **resist**.
 - ✓ A **message** he could not **hold in**.
 - ✓ **Rejection** he could not **shake** off.
 - ✓ **Protection** he could not **fail**.
 - ✓ **Destruction** he could not **deny**.
 - ✓ **Depression** he could not see **past**.

THOUGHTS

- Be careful before entering the **ministry**.
- The **destruction** of the **lost** should disturb us.