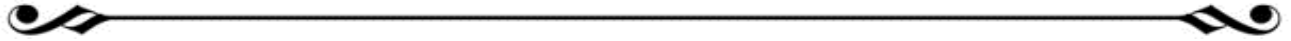


Sunday, August 24, 2025

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. —Winston Churchill



In today's Bible reading, the Lord calls the young Jeremiah to be a prophet to the unfaithful people of God. Jeremiah demurs, saying, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy" (v. 6). His comment made me wonder about the ages of some young kings and queens in the history of Western civilization. Here's a partial list of what I found.

- King Tutankhamun of Egypt was 9 years old when he became the pharaoh and reigned from 1332-1323 B.C.
- Alfonso XIII of Spain was born a king! His reign: 1886-1931.
- Mary, Queen of Scots, was 6 days old. Her reign: 1542-1567.
- Wilhelmina of the Netherlands became queen at the age of 10. Her reign: 1890-1948.
- Louis XIV of France was 4 years old. His reign: 1643-1715 (72 years!)

Of course, monarchs ascending at young ages had to rely heavily on regents or advisors to govern until they reached maturity. Many of these young rulers became historical icons, leaving lasting legacies despite their early beginnings.

This is what Jeremiah did not realize at first. Perhaps he thought God was simply throwing him into the deep end of the pool, expecting him to learn how to swim without any lessons.

But God quickly reminded him, as he did to Moses centuries earlier, that Jeremiah would never be without divine guidance. "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD" (vv. 7-8). God even promises to put words in the mouth of the young prophet; he won't need to worry about speaking in public (v. 9).

God may not be asking you to be a prophet. But you might be called to do something difficult. Perhaps there is someone who is in mourning and needs comfort. Perhaps there is a dear soul who is lonely and God is calling you to be a friend. Perhaps you know of some staffers whose faithful work every day goes unnoticed and unappreciated. God is calling you to offer a word of encouragement and gratitude.

Say "Yes!" Jeremiah did and he became a great spokesman for God!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God, give me courage to say "yes" to anything you ask of me. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Galatians 1-3

Monday: Jeremiah 43-46

Tuesday: Jeremiah 47-49

Wednesday: Jeremiah 50-52

Thursday: Lamentations 1-5

Friday: 1 Chronicles 1-3

Saturday: Psalms 91-93

Verse to Remember

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

—Psalm 91:1-2

MAGNIFICENT MYSTERIES!

Consider the riddles and enigmas below and prepare to have your mind challenged!

1. What was it that Adam never had and never saw yet gave to his children?
2. When does a chair hate you?
3. Which candle burns longer, a wax candle or a tallow candle?
4. What kind of clock shows the exact time twice a day, but is wrong at all other times?
5. What question can never be answered by "Yes"?

WORD MATCH

Directions: Below is a list of 10 compound words, but you need to draw lines from a word in the left column to a matching word in the right one. Write the new word (a compound word) in the space provided.

door	line	_____
jaw	brush	_____
farm	worm	_____
back	fish	_____
earth	mat	_____
air	ground	_____
gold	house	_____
candle	blot	_____
hair	bone	_____
ink	stick	_____

Solution: 1. Parents; 2. When it can't bear you. 3. Neither; they burn shorter. 4. A stopped clock. A stopped clock will show the correct time twice a day. 5. Are you asleep? WORD MATCH: doormat, jawbone, farmhouse, background, earthworm, airline, goldfish, candlestick, hairbrush, inkblot.