Two Signs To Anchor The Soul – Jeremiah 1:11-19

Intro. In chapter one we have the privilege of reading how the Lord equipped Jeremiah for the calling on his life. We too are called to courageously follow Jesus in the exceptional life of faith that will help the others to know him! But we need two signs to anchor our souls against the current of culture.

I. An Almond Branch Staff: The Lord oversees the outcome of your calling – Jer. 1:11-12

A. Almond branch

B. Priest Aaron's almond staff
- Number 17:5-8, Isaiah 50:11, John 1:14

II. Boiling Pot Facing Towards Us: The Lord contains evil and uses it to bring about his good – Jer. 1:13-16
- Genesis 50:20, Luke 22:31-34

III. Dressed For Hard Work!: Be prepared to work hard and persevere through opposition – Jer. 1:17-19
- Ephesians 2:10

A. Dress for the hard work of following Jesus and sharing the good news of the gospel with others in what you do and say
- John 15:18-20; 17:4, 1 Timothy 4:12-16

B. "I make you…" – v. 18
- Jeremiah 1:18-19 (Message)

C. "I am with you" – vv. 19, 8

Devotion:

1. *The Lord called Jeremiah in verses 4-5 and then equipped him for his calling in verses 6-10. That would seem to be enough for Jeremiah to serve the Lord, but then God gave Jeremiah two signs to anchor his soul for the difficult task ahead of him. What do the Almond staff and Boiling pot communicate to Jeremiah?*

2. *How do these signs reassure you in your own walk of faith following Jesus Christ?*

3. *In verse 17 the Lord tells Jeremiah to dress for hard work because his calling to serve the Lord will not be easy. Jesus said the same thing to us in John 15:18-20. How do you react to that? How does your attitude need to shift?*

4. *What does the work of faith look like? What would it look like for you to dress for the hard work of being a Christian?*

5. *How does hearing the Lord say in verses 9 and 18, "I am with you" encourage and embolden you?*

6. *Ask the Lord to strengthen you to courageously follow him in the exceptional life of faith that will help others to know Jesus!*