

Our Intimate God, Jeremiah 1:4-5



Our Intimate God

- **Luke 19:1-7 NIV**, “1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

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- **Luke 19:1-7 NIV**, 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

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- Did God put that common sycamore-fig tree there on purpose for this day?
- If someone planted it, did they know that they were doing God's work?
- I wonder if Zacchaeus ever praised God for the common sycamore-fig tree he climbed up on to see Jesus?
- God knew a sycamore-fig tree would be needed on that day and years before He planted it

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- **Genesis 22:13-14 NIV**, 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

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- When did God plan for this ram to be available on this day in Abraham and Isaac's life?
- Does God plant or allow experiences in your life so you are equipped for Him later in life?
- How intricate is God's hand in your daily life?

Scripture

- **Jeremiah 1:4-5 NIV**, 4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
 - When did God know Jeremiah?
 - When did God set him apart?
 - When did God appoint him as a prophet?
 - Before he had done anything right or wrong, proven himself, he was

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- King David asked a question in **Psalms 139:7 NIV**, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”
 - How dark is too dark for God to see or know me, to know I exist, to know what I need?
 - **Psalms 139:11 NIV**, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me”
 - How dark is so dark that God is not there or can't find you?

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- King David thought he knew where that place was, his mother's womb
 - Psalm 139:15 NLT, "You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb."
 - The Hebrew words carry the idea of, "You were right there with me, not as an observer looking in, but as the cause"

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- Psalm 139:16 NLT, “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”
- David’s summary, Psalm 139:17 NLT, “How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!”
 - How precious to me are your thoughts

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- When did God begin preparing David for kingship?
- When did God begin preparing Jeremiah to be His prophet?
- When did God begin preparing you to be you for His glory?

Jeremiah, I knew you fully and completely before there was even a hint of you physically

- “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you”
- Who formed Jeremiah in the womb?
- Notice the complete lack of surprise by God on the creation of Jeremiah
- Before there was a single Jeremiah cell that began to split, God knew him completely

Jeremiah, I knew you fully and completely before there was even a hint of you physically

- Could Jeremiah claim he was an accident or unwanted?
- Could Jeremiah claim he was unplanned?
- Could Jeremiah claim his life has no meaning or purpose?
- His parents may have been surprised, but God wasn't, nor was Jeremiah unplanned

Jeremiah, I knew you fully and completely before there was even a hint of you physically

- What about you?
- Was Jeremiah or King David just special so God worked in their lives different than yours?
- The dignity and sanctity of life is not because of how special you are or how you got here or even whether you were wanted by your birth parents, but because we are all bear within us the image of God

Jeremiah, I knew you fully and completely before there was even a hint of you physically

- We are all formed and equipped by God personally
- The psalmist said, “God knows we are just dust.”
(Psalms 103:14)
 - The dust isn’t all that significant
 - We become significant when God scoops up that dust and molds it into a human being and breathes into it the breath of life

Jeremiah, I knew you fully and completely before there was even a hint of you physically

- So, what does this tell you this morning?
 - You are precious!
 - You are wanted!
 - Your life has meaning and purpose!
 - You are blessed and loved by your Heavenly Father!

Jeremiah, I have been preparing for the work I have for you

- “Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
- Jeremiah, I knew you were coming, and I do not want you to wander aimlessly through life
 - I want you to know who I am
 - I want you to know who you are
 - I want you to know your life has purpose and meaning

Jeremiah, I have been preparing for the work I have for you

- God needed Jeremiah to have a specific skill set
- Jeremiah needed to be both bold in speaking God's truth but compassionate to the misery and suffering around him
- God worked these into Jeremiah's life experience
- **Isaiah 48:10 NIV**, "See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested (*chosen, refined*) you in the furnace of affliction."

Jeremiah, I have been preparing for the work I have for you

- Tell me what Jeremiah's life was like growing up?
 - Was he loved by this mother and father?
 - Was he ever mistreated or even abused?
 - Did he ever feel like he fit anywhere, even within his family?
 - Did he ever feel isolated, alone, or rejected?
 - Did he ever wonder why God made him like he was?

Jeremiah, I have been preparing for the work I have for you

- Why would God anoint David king of Israel then have him run for his life living in caves?
- Why would God tell Elijah to pronounce a drought then have him hide in isolation and be fed by ravens for three years watching the creek dry up?
- Why would God send a young Jewish boy named Joseph into slavery?

Jeremiah, I have been preparing for the work I have for you

- God willed or allowed those experiences in their lives to prepare and use them mightily
- **2nd Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV**, “3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Jeremiah, I have been preparing for the work I have for you

- How about your experiences?
 - What did God will or allow in your life to give you the skill set necessary to minister for Him today, to comfort in His name today?

Jeremiah, you have never, nor ever will be, utterly alone

- Jeremiah is going to experience some really harsh events as he lives out God's path for him
 - Events that could have him questioning God
 - He will be totally rejected, silenced, threatened, thrown into an empty cistern, go into captivity

Jeremiah, you have never, nor ever will be, utterly alone

- God wants us to know, that no matter the event, hardship we are never alone
- No matter what the horizon looks like, you will never be utterly alone

Jeremiah, you have never, nor ever will be, utterly alone

- Jeremiah was not by himself in his mother's womb
 - He was not by himself growing up
 - He was not by himself in the cistern
 - He was not by himself when he was beaten and put in the stocks
 - He was not by himself when he was given the death penalty
 - He was not by himself in captivity

Jeremiah, you have never, nor ever will be, utterly alone

- Like King David said, “There is no place I can go, no experience I can have, no event that comes into my life where God is absent.”
 - Even in my sinfulness
 - Life can be harsh, not fair, soul withering, but God is good and promises to walk through it with you and use it in your life

Jeremiah, you have never, nor ever will be, utterly alone

- **Psalms 23:1-4 NIV**, “1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.
 - 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me”
- Helen Keller, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”

Christian pastor Andrew Murray

- “First, He brought me here, it is by His will I am in this strait place: in that fact I will rest.
 - Next, He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace to behave as His child.
 - Then, He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.
 - Last, In His good time He can bring me out again--how and when He knows.

Christian pastor Andrew Murray

- Let me say I am here,
 - (1) By God's appointment,
 - (2) In His keeping,
 - (3) Under His training,
 - (4) For His time.

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