Then took they Jeremiah,  
And cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah  
[Mal key YAH]  
The son of Hammelech  
That was in the court of the prison:  
And they let down Jeremiah with cords.  
And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire:  
And Jeremiah sunk in the mire.  
Jeremiah 38:6

In the Mire with Jeremiah  
The Galatians 3:28 Ministry  
Rob Martorana  
February 24, 2017

Summary  
Jeremiah is cast into the dungeon for his faithfulness.  
Are you in the mire with Jeremiah? If so, listen to the Lord and live.

“Stars Tipped Over”  
But a quick fix fails like you knew that it would  
The bottom dropped out from where we stood  
...  
The stars tipped over  
The sky came closer  
Your words like fire  
Sharp like lightning  
Stars Tipped Over  
Petree
Jeremiah 37: 11-21

11 And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chaldeans was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh’s army, The Chaldeans feared the Egyptians.

12 then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people. Jeremiah went to claim some property.

13 And when he was in the gate of Benjamin, a captain of the ward was there, whose name was Irijah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah; and he took Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Thou fallest away to the Chaldeans. Accused of treason

14 Then said Jeremiah, It is false; I fall not away to the Chaldeans. But he hearkened not to him: so Irijah took Jeremiah, and brought him to the princes.

15 Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the prison. The princes were angry.

16 When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon, and into the cabins, and Jeremiah had remained there many days; Patience in affliction

17 then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon. A timid king.

18 Moreover Jeremiah said unto king Zedekiah, What have I offended against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that ye have put me in prison? A humble prophet

19 Where are now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land? A truthful prophet
Therefore hear now, I pray thee, O my lord the king: let my supplication, I pray thee, be accepted before thee; that thou cause me not to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, lest I die there. The prophet asks for mercy.

Then Zedekiah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread out of the bakers’ street, until all the bread in the city were spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison. The king relents and sends Jeremiah back to prison to wait, but not to die.

The princes had one map, and Jeremiah had another

The princes lived for themselves. They followed a selfish map for success:

- **Mastery**: The princes were skilled in the politics of power. They planned and plotted successfully.

- **Autonomy**: The princes were independent and self-willed.

- **Profit**: The princes were self-centered, not God-centered.

The princes had a selfish map for success, and it was a map of mastery, autonomy, and profit.

Jeremiah also had a map for success:

- **Modesty**: Jeremiah was humble in 37:18 and 37:20:
  - 37:18: “[How] have I offended thee… that ye have put me in prison?”
  - 37:20 “Therefore hear now, I pray thee, O my lord the king: let my supplication, I pray thee, be accepted before thee;”

- **Authority**: Jeremiah obeyed the Lord despite ongoing persecution.

- **Purpose**: Jeremiah served God, and not his own comfort.
Your Map

What is your map?

- Do you have a human map? Mastery, autonomy, and profit
- Or do you have a divine map? Modesty, authority, and purpose

Jeremiah 38: 1-20

1 Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying, The princes hear the prophet’s words…

2 Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live. Flee the city!

3 Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon’s army, which shall take it. Doom for Jerusalem.

4 Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt. The princes accuse Jeremiah. Do the princes seek the word of God? Or do the princes seek to save their status?

5 Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you. Zedekiah is timid before the princes. “The king cannot do anything.” (!!!)
6 Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah

[Mal key YAH, or Mal key YAH hoo; or “my king is Jehovah]

the son of Hammelech, [or Melek “the king”; MEL-ech]

that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

[he sunk up to his neck, acc. to Josephus]

Jeremiah suffered for doing the right thing. You may be suffering, and it may be because you did good or evil:

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

1 Peter 3:17

You may be suffering for evil or for good. I do not know—only God knows. Are you in the mire with Jeremiah? Or are you in rebellion?

• Are you in the mire with Jeremiah, suffering for well doing?
• Or are you in rebellion with Jezebel, worshipping idols and persecuting prophets?
• Are you in the mire with Jeremiah, patiently accepting affliction?
• Or are you in despair with Judas, in shame because you have betrayed someone?
• Are you in the mire with Jeremiah, bravely declaring God’s warning?
• Or are you in the belly of a fish like Jonah, fleeing from God’s command?

If you are in the mire, ask God why.

7 Now when Ebed-melech [eh-behd-MEL-ehk]

the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king’s house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of
Benjamin; The Ethiopian Ebed-melech intervenes, and Jeremiah is brought back into the court of the prison.

8 Ebed-melech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying,

9 My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city. [eh-behd-MEL-ech] rebukes the evil and asks for mercy.

10 Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, [he needs thirty men to face any potential opposition of the princes] and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die. The king is moved.

11 So Ebed-melech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah. Rotten rags

12 And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so.

Why such emphasis on rotten rags? Matthew Henry says that the rags show the tenderness of Ebed-melech [eh-behd-MEL-ehk]. He is concerned about Jeremiah’s arms, which might get hurt by the ropes.

Eh-behd-MEL-ehk shows compassion for the prophet. Perhaps you are not called to be a prophet; but can you help a prophet? Can you show compassion for a prophet?

13 So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison. Restoration.

14 Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me. The timid king.

15 Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me? A shrewd question.
16 So Zedekiah the king sware secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life. A promise.

17 Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon’s princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house: Flee and live!

18 but if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon’s princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand. Jerusalem shall fall.

19 And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me. The king fears abuse from his fellow Jews.

20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live. Listen to the Lord and live.

A Leap of Faith
One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters."

The child had to flee. The child had to listen, then leap, and then live. Jeremiah told the king to flee. The king had to listen, take a leap of faith, and then live.

Jeremiah was cast into the dungeon for his faithfulness. Are you in the mire with Jeremiah? Maybe you can’t move right now. If so wait on the Lord.

Maybe you are not stuck in the mire. But maybe you are stuck in a situation and God is telling you to flee. If so, listen to the Lord, take a leap of faith, and live.
Galatians 3:28  
KJV  
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither Bond [slave] nor free, There is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28  
RV 1960  
Ya no hay judío ni griego; No hay esclavo ni libre; No hay varón ni mujer; Porque todos vosotros Sois uno en Cristo Jesús.
How to Connect with Us

• **Call Us:** We have preaching, prayer, and live discussion every Friday from 7-8 p.m. The number is (712) 770-8086 and the code is 735-765.

• **Text Us:** Send a text to Rob Martorana at (201) 919-2395. He will text you a link each Friday and you can see the message right on your phone.

• **Visit Us:** [www.Galatians328.com](http://www.Galatians328.com) has all of our weekly messages and podcasts.

• **Email Us:** Send an email to robert.martorana@gmail.com