

## **SERMON**

**DATE: Saturday - Sunday, August 31 – September 1, 2019**

**SERIES: *Faithful***

**SERMON TITLE: Being Strong and Courageous**

**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:11-19**

### **Jeremiah 1:11-19**

[11] The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”

“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.

[12] The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching<sup>[a]</sup> to see that my word is fulfilled.”

[13] The word of the LORD came to me again: “What do you see?”

“I see a pot that is boiling,” I answered. “It is tilting toward us from the north.”

[14] The LORD said to me, “From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land.

[15] I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms,” declares the LORD.

“Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah.

[16] I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me, in burning incense to other gods and in worshiping what their hands have made.

[17] “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.

[18] Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land.

[19] They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

**August 31-Sept 1, 2019**

**Series: *Faithful***

**Title: Be Strong and Courageous**

**1. Follow God and His ways.**

- Don't wander
- Don't make your own gods.
- *Jeremiah 29:13* You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**2. Get yourself ready.**

- *Ephesians 6:10* Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- Put on the armor of God.
- Don't be intimidated.

**3. Stand with God.**

- God doesn't always keep us out of the fight, but He always stands with the fighter.

**Lagniappe**

## **Why I Hate to See August Go**

I suppose I really have many reasons to hang on to the month of August, but I want to give you reasons from a church standpoint of why I hate to see the calendar turn from August to September.

This has been the best monthly attendance in the history of the church. This is both in worship and in Connect Groups.

Actually, our Connect Groups have been beyond our expectations. Each week has seen more than 1,700 people studying God's Word. Until August we only had one weekend when we had over 1,700 in attendance. That weekend was when we opened the new Preschool and Children's building and started the new schedule on September 10, 2016. Last year in August we averaged 1,598 in our Connect Group attendance, which in itself was an amazing number of people. This year we averaged 1,766.

During the month of August, we broke our previous record two times, with the third weekend reaching 1,814.

During the same time, our weekly worship attendance averaged over 2,400 people.

As we met for our weekly staff meeting, I gave our pastors the reason for these good things. Obviously, God is at work and God's people are at work.

At the same time, I emphasized to them the importance of doing the "work of ministry" day by day, week by week. When you work hard and do the right things, you see outsized results.

I am really not too upset about not having any other August weekends because the same God who has worked in the past will be at work in our future as well.

Let us serve and honor Him.