

# Unlikely Heroes Of The Bible

## *“Ebed-Melech”*

(Jeremiah 37-38)

- Introduction:
1. Tucked away in the pages of the book of Jeremiah is the brief mention of a man named, Ebed-Melech.
  2. This obscure character in the Bible, became a hero, and was rewarded by God for his actions.
  3. In this lesson, we will examine what he did, and how we, in principle, can do the same today.

### I. Historical Background Of The Text

- A. Babylon was besieging the city of Jerusalem (37:5).
- B. Babylon received news that Egypt was coming from the South to help Jerusalem, so they temporarily lifted their siege (37:5).
- C. During this time, Jeremiah prophesied that Babylon would return and destroy Jerusalem (37:7-10).
- D. Jeremiah was arrested, charged with being a traitor (37:11-16).
- E. King Zedekiah sends for Jeremiah and Jeremiah tells him the bad news. After counsel, the King decides to imprison Jeremiah once again (37:17-38:6).
- F. This is when Ebed-Melech came to Jeremiah’s defense (38:8-13).

### II. Practical Lessons From This Ethiopian Eunuch

- A. He was bold and would not stand by silently when he saw evil .
  1. (Jeremiah 38:9).
  2. Such a stand was risky.
  3. God has called us to be bold, not timid (Acts 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:7).
  4. (Isaiah 5:20).
- B. He had concern for another in the midst of his own personal trouble.
  1. (Jeremiah 38:7-8).
  2. (Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:4).
- C. His concern led him to action.
  1. (Jeremiah 38:9-11).
  2. (James 2:14-17; Luke 10:29-37; James 1:22; 4:17).
- D. He went the extra mile.
  1. (Jeremiah 38:12).
  2. He did what he could to make his rescue comfortable.

- Conclusion:
1. Just as in the days of Jeremiah, God needs people of courage and compassion today.
  2. Would you have stood up for Jeremiah if you were one of his contemporaries?
  3. God valued the heroic actions of Ebed-Melech.
  4. Will you stand up for Jesus today?