

Not Him, the Other Guy

Ebed-Melech

(Jeremiah 37-38)

- Introduction:
1. If I were to ask you where we read about the Ethiopian Eunuch, most people would answer, “Acts 8.”
 2. Of course, that would be true, but I’m not talking about him, I’m talking about the other Ethiopian Eunuch, named “Ebed-Melech.”
 3. Most people don’t remember reading about another Ethiopian Eunuch in the Bible, but there he is, tucked away in a rather well-known Bible story.
 4. Let’s see if we cannot uncover some practical applications from what the Bible records about him.

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 knew the difference between right and wrong.
 1. This is something that our present culture has seemingly lost the ability to discern.
 2. (Isaiah 5:20).
 - a. What God calls an abomination, we call gay (Romans 1:26-27).
 - b. Taking innocent life is called choice (Proverbs 6:17).
 - c. Rejection of God is called scientific fact (Romans 1:20-22).
 - d. False doctrine is called Christian liberty (2 John 9-11).
 3. We’ve become a society of euphemisms in order to salve our consciences.
 - a. Adultery is called an affair.
 - b. Fornication is called love.
 - c. Lying is called misinformation.
 - d. Murder is called the right to choose.
 - e. Cursing is called colorful language.
 - f. We don’t even fail in school anymore, we achieve a deficiency.

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- B. He had concern for another in the midst of his own personal trouble.
 - 1. (Matthew 22:34-40).
 - 2. (Romans 12:10).
 - 3. (Philippians 2:4).
 - C. His concern led him to action.
 - 1. (James 2:14-17).
 - 2. (Luke 10:29-37),
 - 3. (James 1:22; 4:17).
 - D. He went the second mile.
 - 1. (Jeremiah 38:12).
 - a. Putting cloths around the ropes was not necessary to get him out of the well.
 - b. It was all about comfort and kindness.
 - 2. (Matthew 5:38-42).
- 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. Will you stand up for Jesus today?