**Sermon Series**: Overcoming: Discouragement

**Key Scripture**: Jeremiah 20:1-18 NIV

**Recorded Sermon:** www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/ overcoming-discouragement

**Date + Speaker**: April 28, 2024 | Pastor Mark Scarr

**Starter**:

Have you ever felt rejected/ridiculed for what you believe? How did you handle it?

**Discussion**:

1. Read Jeremiah 20:1-6, NIV Jeremiah: The Discouraged Prophet - What do you observe from this passage?
* Why do you think Pashhur had Jeremiah beaten and put in stocks?
* How did Jeremiah respond after he was released? What does this tell you about Jeremiah’s character?
* When you suffer ridicule or rejection for what you believe, does that tend to silence you? Or does it motivate you to speak out even more powerfully for God?
1. Read Jeremiah’s perplexity/complaint: Jeremiah 20:7-8
* Jeremiah cried out to God in despair. How would you describe his emotional state at this point?
* Note his bold honesty as he expressed his feelings to God. Do you pray authentic prayers to God about how you are really feeling?
1. How did Jeremiah persevere? Jeremiah 20:9
* How did Jeremiah describe God’s word within him?
* In 20:13 Jeremiah praises God. How does he show appreciation for God’s goodness here?
1. At the end of the sermon Pastor Mark also shared a key scripture: Jeremiah 1:18-19
* What does God say here about being a fortified city and God’s deliverance?
* What does this tell us of God’s presence and rescuing power?

**Reflection/Prayer**:

1. When you face times of doubt or discouragement, remember Jesus’ promise to always be with you. (Matthew 28:20).
* Ask if anyone knows the old song: “**What a Friend We Have in Jesus”.** Share the lyrics with the group**.** You can sing the song together for encouragement in Christ.

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit
O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Source: Alan Jackson

End in a time of prayer. Be completely honest with God about how you are feeling. Trust in the Lord. Take comfort in God’s promises and surrender to His will.