**“Made for this Day”**

Going deeper in Jeremiah 1:4-14 & 18

**INTRODUCTION** Prior to this God has told Jeremiah that He knew all about him before he was born and that He has holy plans for his life and that God gave Jeremiah as a prophet for the nations. What follows is Jeremiah’s response and his interaction with God.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 4 This is what God said: 5 Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you were born, I had holy plans for you: I gave you to be a prophet to the nations. 6 But I said, “Hold on, LORD GOD! I cannot speak because I am only a young boy.” 7 But the LORD said to me, “Don’t say, ‘I am only a young boy.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and you must say whatever I tell you to say. 8 Don’t be afraid of anyone because I am with you and I will deliver you. 9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and the LORD said to me, “Look! I just put my words in your mouth. 10 See what I’ve done? Today, I commissioned you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and pull down, to destroy and overthrow and then to build and to plant.” 11 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see the branch of an almond tree.” 12 Then the LORD said to me, “Good eyes! You can count on me to be watching and I will fulfill the word I promised.” 13 The word of the LORD came to me a second time saying, “So what do you see now?” I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.” 14 The LORD said to me, “From the north disaster will pour out on everyone living in the land.”

18 Look! I made you for this day. I have made you as solid as a fortified city. As immovable as an iron pillar. As strong as bronze walls against this culture – against the kings and princes of Judah, against its priests, against the people of the land.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. How involved was God in preparing Jeremiah for his calling? How involved has God been in preparing you for what you are called to?

2. How does God’s call make Jeremiah feel (v.6)?

3. Why does God touch Jeremiah’s mouth with his hand?

4. Rather than making Jeremiah’s calling easier what does God do for him instead in verses 9-10?

5. Why do you think God gives Jeremiah a vision of an almond branch (remember Aaron’s rod which Moses used in his struggle with Pharoah that later budded into an almond branch)?

6. Of the promises that God gives Jeremiah in verse 18 what is the image that is the most important to you in your current challenges? Why?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*One by one prayerfully lift up to the LORD those challenges that seem most daunting to you.

\*Talk honestly with the LORD about your fears. Lay them down at His feet.

\*Ask the LORD to make you as strong as a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall for the challenges He has called you to.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

In the adventure God has invited you into He will make you like a fortified city, an immovable iron pillar, and as strong as a bronze wall. Will you live this way this week?