

As I read about the lives of Jeremiah and Ezekiel recently, I was impressed with their devotion to God, and their willingness to obey in the area of marriage.

Jeremiah received a command to remain single (Jeremiah 16:1-4). Was there someone he hoped to marry? Was there a yielding to God's will on the part of two people? Many single Christian friends have talked about being given a choice between marriage or following God's will. For some of us, a reason for singleness was revealed later on, although God probably has many reasons for each of His plans. Jeremiah was surely grateful when in hiding or in prison that he did not have a family suffering as well. But the overarching reason for such a command may be testing our love and our obedience to God.

We do not know the name of Ezekiel's wife (Ezekiel 24:16,18), but we know she was the "desire" of his eyes. She was probably his companion during the months of street theater, his encourager in the face of the Jews' unbelief, his faithful partner during the years when the only time he spoke was to give the word of God. And in one day she was gone. There are many faithful people like this woman. No one knows their names or remembers anything they did. We have probably all felt that unimportant at one time or another. But Ezekiel's precious wife represented the temple, God's dwelling place, the location dear to His heart. God knows our names and what we have done, just as He knows hers. And we are precious to Him.

These were people who heard God's word, trusted Him, and obeyed when it might not have been easy. They have been examples and blessings to me.



Updates

--The weeds and brush on the property have been cut, and much of the trash has been burned. The men are starting to remove the unwanted saplings and stumps. The property looks much better!

--The saying here is that it never rains in July. However, we got great rainfalls on July 1 and 2, with some misty rain since. The farmers are grateful.

--The woman with advanced cervical cancer went to be with Jesus at the end of June. Her youngest daughter was grateful to have a few weeks to prepare for this. None of the doctors the woman had seen had told her of the seriousness of her problem.

--I was doing administrative work one night recently when I heard something bump in the back area of the house. I had left the doors open to get some breeze because it was so hot, but decided it was time to close them. When I came back into the kitchen, I found a critter walking across my floor! It came from the canal or the river, a long walk in either direction. My workers told me this was a young crab; an adult would have filled the bucket. I am definitely going to try and get some screens on the back grill-work door during the clinic vacation (July 15-30)!



Thanks for your prayers and support!

In our Lord's service,

Dr. Anne



Bible club in patient pavilion