Destroying the message

How do you feel when speak and it falls flat – It's hard when you say something that you believe to be so important and no one gets it – they look at you and change the subject, maybe they don't validate what you just said, or are dismissive, ya ya and move on, maybe they make fun of what you said, or they outrightly manifest scorn, or reject you as a person, your position or your friendship. Painful and isolating. Don't feel like opening your mouth again. But what you are feeling is a taste of what prophets went through.

The Bible provides us with examples of how mankind has responded to the prophets, to the gift of prophecy, inspired messages, and in some instances the very words of God quoted by the prophets. For the most part - rejected.
Moses- more than a prophet, God told him to tell the people that the Great I AM had sent him, but the Children of Israel in the wilderness launch open rebellion against him and his message.
Elisha, double portion of the HS, made fun of by young men who mocked his bald head & msg.
Ezekial – much of what he said is largely ignored.
What happened to the prophet Jeremiah and his message?
Served under many kings of Judah, last of the kings- starting with Josiah, his wicked sons and a grandson
We don't see any direct communication between King Josiah and Jeremiah but we know that King Josiah is responsive to messages from God – He tears his clothes, humbles his heart when the word of God is read to Him. He reaches out to prophetess Huldah. The message she gives to the king acknowledges Josiah's repentance and his efforts to bring about reformation, but that the people have not turn away from idolatry. (2 K 22)
Jeremiah's ministry initially focused here on the state of the people. God entreating them to return from their backsliding during the days of Josiah. Jer 3:6-10
After Josiah dies Jeremiah's ministry continues and we see how the sons of Josiah who follow as kings of Judah respond to the prophetic word – sadly it's very different than Josiah's.

Chpt 36 - Jeremiah has been told by God to write down the words that God has given him. So Jeremiah has Baruch transcribe the message. Jeremiah then instructs him to read it out loud in the house of the Lord on a special occasion when people from all the cities of Judah will be in Jerusalem -with the objective that the people would hear and turn from their evil way. Baruch follows the instruction. A man- Michaiah hears it and goes and tells all the princes what he heard Baruch read. The princes then call for Baruch to read the message to them as well and when they hear the words they respond with godly fear; "We've got to share this with the King"- the scroll is left with them. but they tell Baruch, you and Jeremiah need to hide.

When the scroll was read to King Jehoiakim, doesn't like the message. In fact, only a portion is read the king cut it with a knife and threw it in the fire and makes sure that the whole scroll is burned up. Repeated throughout history – Bibles burned, heretical literature confiscated, tracts crumpled up and trashed. The King thought he could destroy the prophetic word. But God's word is indestructible. God told Jeremiah to write it down a second time and everything he

wrote down came to pass.

The repeated response of God's people to the messages God sends through His prophets and God's response to their response is summarized in 2 Chr 36:15,16:
"And the Lord God of their fathers sent warning to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy."

the last king of Judah is King Zedekiah. many Jews have already been taken to Babylon. You would think that it would be time to listen up.
But he too rejects the entreaty by Jeremiah 2 Chr 36:12 "He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke from the mouth of the Lord"
What a thing to say about someone? Jeremiah, spoke from the mouth of the Lord – quoting God, and we destroy the message. How do we destroy the msg?
Mock the messenger – disrespectfully make fun of, humiliate, embarrass, fanatics, extremists, - focus on the person, who they are, highlight their inadequacies, don't like
Despise the msg itself –don't like what it says, regard as worthless- ignore, inferior to our superior human reasoning, we want something different so we go elsewhere for input as to how to what is right
Scoff at His prophets – express contempt, unbelief, ridicule, belittle

What took place back then is sad/tragic but what is sadder is our reenactment, in our day, trying to destroy the message. Mock the messenger as though we are superior in some way. Despise the words because they aren't congruous with our lives or how we think. And we Scoff – express our unbelief in a rejecting, belittling manner. We may destroy the messenger but man cannot destroy the message. It is ultimately from God.

When we see crisis when we see apostasy, when we're faced with uncertainty, we see things being upended- it's time to listen to the prophet. Where is God? He's speaking to us through His prophets. If we've destroyed the previous messages – God is simply going to resend it. The Bible is proof of that. We have 66 books written by the prophets and apostles with messages that harmonize with eachother. God resending the message to every era, through different men and women, nevertheless the same underlying message.

It requires humility to receive messages from another human being that may go against how we think. Our inclination to disbelieve. Especially when the message was given in a time so different than mine. But approach with stance of humility; what is the message in it to me? - to be open to receive it.

Men will do strange things when they trust in their own greatness and wisdom. Lt 35 1891

We can learn from a study of King Jehoiakim's example what men will do when they pass the boundary line. We see it in the persecution and suffering that Christ endured at the hands of wicked men. We see it in the treatment that the Lord's faithful servants in every age have received

In Isaiah 1 God is asking who will I send and who will go for Us? Isaiah says here I am send me.
To Jeremiah God said don't say I am a child I will send you and where I send you you shall speak.
Reminding Israel Jeremiah said, Jer 25:4 The Lord ha sent to you all His servants the prophets rising early and sending them but you have not listened, nor inclined your ear to hear
The word of God lives and abides forever - 1 P 1:23
Grass withers, flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever - Is 40:8

Josiah, his son Jehoahaz- 3 mo- evil, Jehoiakim – Josiah's son 11 yr, Jehoiachin Jehoiakim's son 3 mo, Zedekiah Jehoiachin's uncle, Josiah's son, brother of Jehoiakim – 11 yr- he reigned after Judah taken by Babylon