

Not in Vain
Jeremiah 36:4-8, 16-18, and 45:1-5

It is often the role of the sidekick, the 2nd in command, to labor in the _____ of their more recognizable number One. As followers of Jesus, we are always number _____. He is always Number _____. It is good to know that in God's kingdom, we may labor in the shadows, but we can be confident that "at the proper time we will reap a _____ if we do not give up" (Gal. 6:9). This is illustrated in the life of the prophet Jeremiah's sidekick, Baruch.

In many ways, Jesus identified with Jeremiah, and Jeremiah serves as a _____ or picture of Christ. Baruch, his sidekick, serves as an example for us.

First and most important is our _____ to the word of God. Like Baruch we are to faithfully _____ and _____ the word.

We can do it and do better than we do now. We can give _____. We have _____. We can tell someone about Jesus _____. Like Baruch, we are commissioned to report the words of our Number One, Jesus Christ, to others.

But like Baruch, before we can faithfully deliver the word, we must faithfully _____ it. We don't copy the word of God on paper. We copy it, writing it on our _____ and becoming a _____ representation of that word. As the old saying goes, "Your life is the only _____ some people will read." Are you faithfully transcribing His word in the way you live?

Jer. 45:1-5 records a prophecy God had given to Baruch back when he had faithfully fulfilled Jeremiah's request. **Col. 3:23-24** presents this promise to us—"Whatever you do, work at it with all your _____, as working for the _____, since you know that you will receive an _____ from the Lord as a reward."

Taking a Biblical sidekick as our example, let's each renew our commitment to _____ the word and _____ the word with all our heart, knowing that we will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward—that our labor in the Lord is _____.