WARRIORS OF WARFARE

Don't Shoot the Messenger

PART ONE

The Call of the Messenger

God doesn't choose the qualified — He qualifies the chosen.

FAITH · STUDY · EQUIP

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SERIES OVERVIEW

Welcome to **Don't Shoot the Messenger** — a four-part Warriors of Warfare Bible study exploring what it means to be entrusted with God's Word in a world that often resists it. Throughout Scripture, prophets, apostles, and ordinary believers have been called to deliver messages that were unwelcome, unpopular, and even dangerous. Yet God's messengers stood firm — not because of their own strength, but because the One who sent them was faithful.

Over four sessions you will examine the *call*, the *cost*, the *courage*, and the *crown* of the faithful messenger. Each part is grounded in Scripture, enriched with practical application, and designed for both individual devotion and group discussion.

PART 1 OVERVIEW

Part 1 lays the foundation: every messenger is first a person who has been *called*. Before God sends, He speaks. Before He commissions, He transforms. In this session we will trace the call narratives of Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and ultimately Jesus Himself — discovering that God's call always comes with God's equipping.

TEACHING: WHO IS THE MESSENGER?

1. A Messenger Is Appointed, Not Self-Made

Throughout the Bible, no true messenger of God appointed himself. Moses was tending sheep when God spoke from a burning bush. Isaiah was undone by a vision of God's holiness before he volunteered anything. Jeremiah protested his youth. Paul was blinded on a road of persecution before he became the apostle to the nations. The consistent pattern is clear: **God initiates; the messenger responds.**

> *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*
>
> **— Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)**

God's call is not reactive — it is proactive, purposed, and deeply personal. He knew you before the foundations of the world, and embedded within that knowledge is a specific assignment for your life.

2. The Message Defines the Messenger

A messenger carries something greater than himself. The authority of the message is not derived from the messenger's education, platform, or personality — it flows from the One who composed it. When God told Moses to go to Pharaoh, Moses asked, *'Who am I?'* God's answer redirected Moses entirely: *'I AM WHO I AM'* (Exodus 3:11–14). The question was never about Moses — it was always about God.

This truth is liberating. You do not need to be impressive. You need to be **faithful** and **available**. The treasure of the gospel is carried in jars of clay precisely so that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us (2 Corinthians 4:7).

3. The Purification of the Messenger

Isaiah 6 records one of the most dramatic call narratives in Scripture. Isaiah sees the Lord 'high and lifted up' and immediately recognizes his own unworthiness: *'Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips.'* But God does not dismiss him — He purifies him. A live coal from the altar touches his mouth, and the declaration follows: *'Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'* Only then does God ask, *'Whom shall I send?'* — and only then does Isaiah reply, *'Here am I. Send me!'*

The pattern of call is always: **revelation** → **conviction** → **cleansing** → **commissioning.** God does not use those who think they are already ready. He uses those whom He has made ready.

4. Willing Availability Over Perfect Ability

Gideon called himself the least of the least (Judges 6:15). David was overlooked by his own father. Peter was a fisherman. Mary was a teenager in an obscure town. God has never been constrained by human résumés. What He searches for is a heart that is wholly His (2 Chronicles 16:9). When God finds that heart, He moves heaven and earth to equip it.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When did you first sense that God was calling you to something specific? How did you respond?

2. What is the difference between a self-appointed leader and a God-appointed messenger? Why does it matter?

3. Isaiah was purified before he was commissioned. In what areas of your life is God doing a work of purification to prepare you for greater purpose?

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4. Moses, Jeremiah, and Gideon all offered excuses when God called. What excuses do you find yourself making, and what does God's response to those biblical figures say to you?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7. Why does God choose to use 'jars of clay'? How does this truth bring you both humility and courage?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose at least two of the following to put into practice this week:

1. **Pray the Isaiah prayer:** Spend 10 minutes each morning this week in prayer, asking God to reveal any areas of uncleanness — wrong attitudes, unforgiveness, pride — and to cleanse you for His service.
2. **Journal your call story:** Write out three to five moments in your life where you clearly sensed God redirecting or calling you. Look for the thread He is weaving.
3. **Speak your availability:** Say aloud — in prayer — 'Here am I, Lord. Send me.' Do this daily for seven days and journal what shifts in your perspective.
4. **Encourage another messenger:** Identify someone in your church or community who is faithfully serving God. Write them a note or call them this week to affirm their calling.
5. **Study the call:** Read the full call narratives of Moses (Exodus 3–4), Isaiah (Isaiah 6), and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1) back to back. Note every similarity and every difference in how God calls.

✦ MEMORY VERSE ✦

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Next session — PART 2: The Cost of the Message · 'When faithfulness comes with a price.'

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