

**RUIN, REBELLION, AND RESTORATION  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH**

Jeremiah 32:1-42

**“WHEN EXERCISING FAITH MAKES YOU LOOK FOOLISH”**

**INTRODUCTION:** Have you ever felt the Lord was telling you to do something that would make you look foolish in the eyes of family, friends, and co-workers? Did you have trust in the Lord and courage to step out in faith? Have you learned the difference between biblical faith and human presumption?

**BACKGROUND:** (2nd Kings 24-25) (Jeremiah 37-38) Jeremiah again found himself in prison for his faithfulness to the Lord and His word, demonstrated over decades. He had been made to look foolish on many occasions, yet he knew that his Lord always kept His promises which helped him endure the consequences he suffered. However, that did not mean that he did not wrestle with God in private when he did not understand the “why” when he was receiving instruction from the Lord.

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**I. FAITHFUL LIVING AND SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE MAY LEAD TO BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSECUTION. STAND ON GOD’S WORD AND ENDURE THE CONSEQUENCES. (Jeremiah 32: 1-5)**

A. Everything Jeremiah had been preaching about for years was coming true, and he was in prison for speaking truth to those who did not want to hear it. Prophets often had to speak unpopular messages to hard hearted people. (Jeremiah 32:1-2)

B. Having the challenge of telling people, who assume God will always bless them, that they are not going to be great, may bring unwanted consequences into your life. Are you up to the challenge? (Jeremiah 32:3-5)

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**II. GOD IS SPIRIT, AND HE IS MORE LIKELY TO SPEAK TO YOUR SPIRIT THAN TO SPEAK OUT LOUD. HAVE YOU LEARNED TO RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE? (Jeremiah 32: 6-15)**

A. Jeremiah was told his nephew Hanamel was coming to make a specific request to have Jeremiah purchase land in his hometown of Anathoth. To do so looked foolish because they were about to be taken captive by the Babylonians. Who wants to buy condemned property? (Jeremiah 32:6-7)

B. Hanamel came and confirmed God’s message to Jeremiah and they made the legal transaction in front to witnesses. How can you be absolutely sure the Lord is speaking to you in situations that might make you look foolish?

1. Jeremiah would not have made such a transaction on his own
2. Hanamel told Jeremiah exactly what God had revealed to him. There was no secret collaboration.

3. The confirmation should be in alignment with God’s will and Word.

4. It should bring glory to the Lord, not to you.

5. Jesus said His sheep would hear (recognize, respond to) His voice and follow Him. (John 10:27)

6. Anyone who desires to do HIs will shall know his doctrine is from God. (John 7:17)

C. When you know the Lord has spoken to you, OBEY HIM no matter how foolish you might look in the moment. You will look wise when it really counts. Think of:

1. Noah.
2. Abraham
3. Moses
4. Elijah

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### **III. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE OF GREAT FAITH TO ALSO HAVE DOUBTS. LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FAITH AND DOUBT SEEKING PROOF. (Jeremiah 32:16-25)**

A. Jeremiah obeyed before he understood why he was asked to do what made him look foolish. Is that your practice?

B. When you do not understand why the Lord told you to do something, consider His actions in the past, rehearse His resume, and trust His nature. He is a good God! (Jeremiah 32: 17-25)

1. Is there anything too hard (difficult or wonderful) for the Lord? Do you believe that when you face challenges and do not see a solution? (Genesis 18) (Joshua 3:5)

2. When is doubt acceptable, and what kind of doubt is not? Do you ever see doubt as an evidence of and attack against real faith? (Luke 1:18) (Luke 1:34) (James 1:5-8)

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### **IV. TRUST THE LORD TO GIVE YOU THE ANSWERS YOU NEED TO KNOW. THE MORE YOU EXERCISE BIBLICAL FAITH, THE MORE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND. (Jeremiah 32:26-42)**

A. The LORD responded to Jeremiah's struggles by reintroducing Himself as sovereign over all humanity. Since that is true, is there ANYTHING that is too difficult (wonderful) for Him to do? He sometimes will challenge us about what we say we believe when times are hard, or we don't see Him at work. Jeremiah 32:26-27) (Habakkuk 1:12-2:4)

B. It was made crystal clear to Jeremiah that the LORD was going to punish the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah. They had committed gross acts of sin including painful child sacrifices, idolatry, and defiling the temple of God. They had turned their backs to the Lord, a supreme insult when someone is speaking to you. They had "poked the bear" and would pay the price. (Jeremiah 32: 28-35)

C. The Lord can make the impossible look easy. Even though the city would be destroyed and the people scattered all over the world, the Lord promised to restore the land, let the people live in safety, enter into a new everlasting covenant with them, and rejoice over them with His whole heart. Are you SURE your situation is too hard for Him? (Jeremiah 32: 36-41)

D. Just as Jeremiah had bought land and sealed a deal in what looked like a hopeless situation, the Lord promised that many others would one day buy fields in Jerusalem and Judah. The God that brings calamity can also resurrect what has been destroyed. He is looking for those who believe He is able to turn mourning into dancing when you exercise faith in Him.

## **CONCLUSION**

Paul told the saints in Corinth that he and the apostles looked like "fools for Christ's sake" while the believers in Corinth appeared to be wise. (1st Corinthians 4:8-13) There will be times when it looks like we are living in an "upside down" kingdom while others appear to be successful. Keep walking by faith, obeying the Lord when He speaks, and one day soon you will inhabit the land that was purchased, not with your money, but with the blood of Christ.