



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: When You Don't Want to Hear the Truth

Passage: Jeremiah 42-43

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: We've all had moments where we fool ourselves into thinking we're listening, when in reality we've already tuned out. Maybe it's sitting in a meeting at work—you nod along, but your mind is miles away. Or maybe it's at home—someone is talking, but you're already forming your own response instead of hearing their words. We look engaged, but our hearts are closed. And that's exactly what happens in our relationship with God. His Word is clear, His voice is steady, yet so often we approach Him with our ears shut and our minds made up. We say we want His direction, but what we really want is confirmation of our own plans. Jeremiah 42–43 pulls back the curtain on this dangerous game, reminding us that pretending to listen to God is no different than outright disobedience.

I. The Pretense Toward God's Word (42:1-6)

We don't usually reject God outright. We don't say, "Forget it, I'll do what I want." Instead, we play the part of a faithful believer. We say all the right words. We may even ask for prayer. But deep down, our decision has already been made.

Pretending to seek God's Word is just as dangerous as rejecting it outright. God is not fooled. He knows whether our obedience is genuine or conditional.

II. The Patience of God's Word (42:7-22)



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We get in our minds what we want and believe is right, expecting God to agree with us. The longer it takes for God to answer our prayers and bring clarity, the more we settle into our own way of thinking.

God often delays His response because He is growing us and attempting to bring us to a place where our ways line up with His.

When God speaks, our response is not to weigh in, debate it, or negotiate it. Our only response should be immediate, unconditional obedience. When you reject God's Word, you don't escape His will—you run headlong into His judgment.

III. The Pride Against God's Word (43:1-7)

"Johanan and the people respected Jeremiah enough to ask for his prayers, but they didn't trust God enough to follow His counsel" — Eugene Patterson

Pride says, "I'll obey as long as it makes sense to me." But submission says, "I'll obey whether I understand or not."

"The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation." — D.L. Moody

Pride refuses to listen. Pride insists on its own way. But pride always leads to ruin. God resists the proud—but He gives grace to the humble.

IV. The Peril of Rejecting God's Word (43:8-13)

The very place the people thought would be their stronghold became the stage for their downfall. There was no escape. God's judgment would find them— even in the heart of the land they trusted for safety.

By rejecting God's Word, they ran right into the disaster they thought they were avoiding.



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Every time we bury God's Word under our will, we are laying down stones for our own defeat. Every act of disobedience is like setting a foundation where the enemy can set up his throne.

Conclusion: The story of Judah reminds us that the greatest danger is not in the battles around us but in the rebellion within us. God's Word is never the problem—our response to it is. We can dress it up in prayers, promises, and pious words, but if our hearts are already bent toward Egypt, we are only fooling ourselves. Yet the invitation of Jeremiah 42 still stands for us today: "If you will abide, I will build." The choice is clear and urgent. Will we trust God enough to stay where He plants us, to obey even when it feels unsafe, to believe that His way is life? Or will we, like Judah, chase Egypt and carry our own ruin with us? The difference between blessing and judgment, safety and sorrow, life and death is found in one simple act—listening and obeying the Word of the Lord.



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