

Nothing is too difficult for you! — 10/22/23

Scripture: Jeremiah 32-33

Big Idea: Even when God asks us to do something uncomfortable, we can trust God.

## PRAY

INTRODUCTION:

TRANSITION:

### HERE'S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS: Jeremiah 32-33

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>2</sup> At that time, the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the guard's courtyard in the palace of the king of Judah. <sup>3</sup> **King Zedekiah of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "Why are you prophesying as you do? You say, 'This is what the Lord says: Look, I am about to hand this city over to Babylon's king, and he will capture it. <sup>4</sup> King Zedekiah of Judah will not escape from the Chaldeans; indeed, he will certainly be handed over to Babylon's king. They will speak face to face and meet eye to eye. <sup>5</sup> He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will stay until I attend to him—this is the Lord's declaration. For you will fight the Chaldeans, but you will not succeed.' "**

King Z asks Jeremiah while he has him imprisoned: Why are you prophesying these things about Jerusalem and me? Whoever stays—death.

#### Listen to Jeremiah's reply:

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah replied, "The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>7</sup> Watch! Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, is coming to you to say, 'Buy my field in Anathoth for yourself, for **you own the right of redemption** to buy it.'

Weird response. Stange word from the Lord.

**Is this real estate advice?** When there is a besieging army it's a good time to buy. **Real cheap!**

<sup>8</sup> "Then, as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to the guard's courtyard and urged me, 'Please buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for **you own the right of inheritance and redemption**. Buy it for yourself.' **THEN I KNEW THIS WAS THE WORD OF THE LORD.**

As soon as he's finished speaking it comes to pass!

**Have you ever heard a weird word from the Lord?**

What did you do with it? Ignore it?

**If only confirmation was always that quick and easy.**

**Important: you own the right of inheritance and redemption... position and**

<sup>9</sup> **So I bought the field** in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and I weighed out the silver to him—seventeen shekels of silver. <sup>10</sup> I recorded it on a scroll, sealed it, called in **witnesses**, and **weighed** out the silver on the scales. <sup>11</sup> I took the purchase agreement—the sealed copy with its terms and conditions

and the open copy—<sup>12</sup> and gave the purchase agreement to Baruch son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah. I did this in the sight of my cousin Hanamel, the witnesses who had signed the purchase agreement, and all the Judeans sitting in the guard's courtyard.

<sup>13</sup> "I charged Baruch in their sight, <sup>14</sup> 'This is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: **Take these scrolls—this purchase agreement with the sealed copy and this open copy—and put them in an earthen storage jar so they will last a long time** (The Dead Sea Scrolls found in 1947 were preserved in this way). <sup>15</sup> For this is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land.'

Jeremiah buys a field in a city under siege and marks the sale by putting two copies of the agreement in a clay jar (one sealed, one unsealed).

...one for security and the other for future reference in proving that the agreed-on terms had not been tampered with...The title deeds went to the buyer. The practice of sealing deeds throws light on the metaphor of the seven-sealed scroll (Rev 5:1), which was the title deed to the world purchased by Christ. **Charles L. Feinberg, "Jeremiah," 582.**

### **Jeremiah's obedience leads to a future inheritance.**

Your decisions today can lead to future blessings.

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. **C.S. Lewis**

### **Your past doesn't have to define your future.**

We all make choices, but in the end, our choices make us. **Ken Levine**

### **The good news is that God invites you today to follow him in obedience.**

<sup>16</sup> "After I had given the purchase agreement to Baruch, son of Neriah, **I prayed to the Lord:** <sup>17</sup> Oh, Lord God! You yourself made the heavens and earth by your great power and with your outstretched arm. **Nothing is too difficult for you!** <sup>18</sup> You show faithful love to thousands but lay the fathers' iniquity on their sons' laps after them, great and mighty God whose name is the Lord of Armies, <sup>19</sup> the one great in counsel and powerful in action. Your eyes are on all the ways of the children of men in order to reward each person according to his ways and as the result of his actions. <sup>20</sup> You performed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt and still do today, both in Israel and among all mankind. You made a name for yourself, as is the case today. <sup>21</sup> You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror. <sup>22</sup> You gave them this land you swore to give to their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>23</sup> They entered and possessed it, but they did not obey you or live according to your instructions. They failed to perform all you commanded them to do, and so you have brought all this disaster on them.

You're great and generous. You gave and gave and gave, but your people didn't obey, so You brought justice...

<sup>24</sup> **Look!** Siege ramps have come against the city to capture it, and the city, as a result of the sword, famine, and plague, has been handed over to the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you have spoken has happened. Look, you can see it!

<sup>25</sup> **Yet you, Lord God, have said to me,** 'Purchase the field and call in witnesses'—even though the city has been handed over to the Chaldeans!"

### So I love the honesty of Jeremiah:

Nothing is too difficult for you... This is who you are and what you've done, and it's amazing!

Look! Siege ramps have come... BUT I'm not feeling it right now.

Yet you, Lord God, have said to me... Obedience of faith.

*"Master," Simon replied, "we've worked hard all night long and caught nothing. **But if you say so, I'll let down the nets.**" Lk 5:5.*

### Be honest with God. He can take it.

*I do believe; help my unbelief! Mk 9:24.*

### Pray honestly when you are struggling.

*We readily affirm that God can do great things, such as create the universe. But do we really trust him in life's decisions? F. B. Huey, [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#), 293.*

**An example of the way to pray in a desperate situation:** concentrating first on the creative power (17) and perfect fidelity and justice (18–19) of God; remembering next his great redemptive acts (20–23a; to which the Christian can now add the greatest of them all); and then with this background, laying before God the guilt of the past (23b), the hard facts of the present (24) and the riddle of the future (25). Christopher J. H. Wright, [The Message of Jeremiah: Grace in the End](#), 354.

### Take a step of obedience of faith.

Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about **the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles. **Rom 1:5**

**Now to him who is able** to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation about Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept silent for long ages<sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of the eternal God to advance **the obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles—<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ—to him be the glory forever! Amen. **Rom 16:25–27**

<sup>26</sup> **The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:** <sup>27</sup> "Look, I am the Lord, the God over every creature. **Is anything too difficult for me?** <sup>28</sup> Therefore, this is what **the Lord says:** I am about to hand this city over to the Chaldeans, to Babylon's king Nebuchadnezzar, and he will capture it. <sup>29</sup> The Chaldeans who are fighting against **this city will come and set this city on fire. They will burn** it, including the houses where incense has been burned to **Baal** on their rooftops and where drink offerings have been poured out to other gods to anger me. <sup>30</sup> From their youth, the Israelites and Judeans have done nothing but what is evil in my sight! **They have done nothing but anger me** by the work of their hands"—this is the Lord's declaration—<sup>31</sup> "for **this city has caused my wrath and fury** from the day it was built until now. **I will therefore remove** it from my presence <sup>32</sup> because of all the evil the Israelites and Judeans have done to anger me—they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, the men of Judah, and the residents of Jerusalem. <sup>33</sup> **They have turned their backs to me and not their faces.** Though I taught them time and time again, they do not listen and receive discipline. <sup>34</sup> They have placed their abhorrent things in the house that bears my name and have defiled it. <sup>35</sup> They have built the high places of Baal in Ben Hinnom Valley to sacrifice their sons and daughters in the fire to **Molech**—something I had not commanded them. I had never entertained the thought that they do this detestable act causing Judah to sin!

**It's almost like God cuts Jeremiah off and says, *Look, I'm God over every creature. Is anything too difficult for me?***

God recounts all the horrible things the Israelites have done that anger God.

This city has angered me. My people in my city have done horrible things in my name with false gods.

**When God's people do wicked things in God's name— FIRE.**

**What does this mean for you? Do you say you are a Christian? Do you pursue evil?**

So God says I will bring to justice all the wrong. All the wicked things that I never crossed my mind that my people would do!

<sup>36</sup> **"Now therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says** to this city about which you said, 'It has been handed over to Babylon's king through sword, famine, and plague': <sup>37</sup> I will certainly gather them from all the lands where I have banished them in my anger, fury and intense wrath, and I will return them to this place and make them live in safety. <sup>38</sup> **They will be my people, and I will be their God.** (Covenantal language) <sup>39</sup> I will give them integrity of heart and action so that they will fear me always, for their good and for the good of their descendants after them. <sup>40</sup> **"I will make a permanent covenant with them: I will never turn away from doing good to them, and I will put fear of me in their hearts so they will never again turn away from me.** <sup>41</sup> I will take delight in them to do what is good for them, and with all my heart and mind I will faithfully plant them in this land.

**Here's that non-sequitur again.**

Israel and Judah are wicked and rebellious and deserve to be wiped off the map. I think I'll make a permanent covenant with them. Restore their future and make them beautiful again.

<sup>42</sup> **"For this is what the Lord says:** Just as I have brought all this terrible disaster on these people, so am I about to bring on them all the good I am promising them. <sup>43</sup> Fields will be bought in this land about which you are saying, 'It's a desolation without people or animals; it has been handed over to the Chaldeans!' <sup>44</sup> Fields will be purchased, the transaction written on a scroll and sealed, and witnesses will be called on in the land of Benjamin, in the areas surrounding Jerusalem, and in Judah's cities—the cities of the hill country, the cities of the Judean foothills, and the cities of the Negev—because I will restore their fortunes." **This is the Lord's declaration.**

**Nothing is impossible for God.** He can turn the wicked desolate land into a beautiful garden. He can take hard hearts of stone and turn them into beautiful, faithful hearts.

but it's going to be a painful seventy-year-long process.

*For nothing will be impossible with God. Lk 1:37.*

**How do you know you belong to God?** The fear of the Lord.

*He has also put his seal on us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment. 2 Co 1:22.* Is your heart sealed with the Holy Spirit as a down payment?

**Rev 5.** The one worthy to open the scroll, the lamb who was slain, is the true owner of the inheritance of the people of God. He's the one for whom nothing is impossible. Our God is able.

The unbreakable covenant is that now through faith in Christ, you are sealed with the HS.

**Chapter 33: While he was still confined** in the guard's courtyard, **the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time:** <sup>2</sup> "The Lord who made the earth, the Lord who forms it to establish it, the Lord is his name, **says this:** <sup>3</sup> **Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know.** <sup>4</sup> For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says concerning the houses of this city and the palaces of Judah's kings, the ones torn down for defense against the assault ramps and the sword: <sup>5</sup> The people coming to fight the Chaldeans will fill the houses with the corpses of their own men that I strike down in my wrath and fury. I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil. <sup>6</sup> Yet **I will certainly bring health and healing** to it and will indeed heal them. I will let them experience the abundance of true peace. <sup>7</sup> **I will restore** the fortunes of Judah and of Israel and will rebuild them as in former times. <sup>8</sup> **I will purify** them from all the iniquity they have committed against me, and **I will forgive** all the iniquities they have committed against me, rebelling against me. <sup>9</sup> This city will bear on my behalf a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, who will hear of all the prosperity I will give them. They will tremble with awe because of all the good and all the peace I will bring about for them.

While still in prison (oppression and in bondage), the word of the Lord comes again.

**In response to Jeremiah's prayer: Call to me, and I will answer you!**

**But you're probably not gonna fully get it.**

God says to Jeremiah, I will (x7): answer, heal, restore, purify, forgive, prosper, and peace. This is too— **great and incomprehensible**— for you.

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways. Is 55:8.*

**Application:** call on God whether you understand, feel like it, or are in a good place. Are you turning your back or your face to God?

**It's through the fire that the people of God are made.**

**We know this in all other parts of life, sports, education, learning a skill.**

<sup>10</sup> **"This is what the Lord says: In this place, which you say is a ruin,** without people or animals—that is, in Judah's cities and Jerusalem's streets that are a desolation without people, without inhabitants, and without animals—there will be heard again <sup>11</sup> a sound of joy and gladness, the voice of the groom and the bride, and the voice of those saying,

**Give thanks to the Lord of Armies, for the Lord is good; his faithful love endures forever...**

...as they bring thanksgiving sacrifices to the temple of the Lord. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as in former times, says the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> **"This is what the Lord of Armies says: In this desolate place**—without people or animals—and in all its cities there will once more be a grazing land where shepherds may rest flocks. <sup>13</sup> The flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who counts them in the cities of the hill country, the cities of the Judean foothills, the cities of the Negev, the land of Benjamin—the areas around Jerusalem and in Judah's cities, says the Lord.

**You say this place is a ruin, BUT I SAY TO YOU...** there will be sounds of joy and gladness.

**What are sounds of joy and gladness?**

Bride and groom— celebration

Praise and worship— Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his love endures forever...

**You say this place is desolate, BUT I SAY TO YOU...** there will once again be flocks—  
abundance and peace.

**God is able to do great and incomprehensible things.**

*For nothing will be impossible with God. Lk 1:37.*

*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Mt 19:26*

**14 Look, the days are coming—when I will** fulfill the good promise that I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **{this is the Lord's declaration}** **15** In those days and at that time **I will** cause a Righteous Branch to sprout up for David, and he will administer justice and righteousness in the land. **16** In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely, and this is what she will be named: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**17 "For this is what the Lord says: David will never fail to have a man sitting on the throne** of the house of Israel. **18 The Levitical priests will never fail to have a man always before me** to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices."

The days are coming when... a Righteous Branch to sprout up for David, and he will administer justice and righteousness... the Lord will be our righteousness.

*The Lord swore an oath to David, a promise he will not abandon: "I will set one of your offspring on your throne. **12** If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I will teach them, their sons will also sit on your throne forever." Ps 132:11–12.*

**19 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: <sup>20</sup> "This is what the Lord says:**

**If you can break** my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night so that day and night cease to come at their regular time, **21** then also my covenant with my servant David may be broken. If that could happen, then he would not have a son reigning on his throne and the Levitical priests would not be my ministers. **22** Even as the stars of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so too I will make innumerable the descendants of my servant David and the Levites who minister to me."

**23 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: <sup>24</sup> "Have you not noticed what these people have said? They say, 'The Lord has rejected the two families he had chosen.' My people are treated with contempt and no longer regarded as a nation among them. <sup>25</sup> This is what the Lord says:**

**If I do not keep** my covenant with the day and with the night, and **if I fail** to establish the fixed order of heaven and earth, **26** then I might also reject the descendants of Jacob and of my servant David. That is, I would not take rulers from his descendants to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But in fact, I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them."

**IF YOU CAN BREAK...** which you can't.

**OR**

**IF I DON'T KEEP... IF I FAIL...** which I won't.

the sun from rising and setting, and if you can count the stars and sand, then I won't keep my word.

**Again God shows that... Great is Thy Faithfulness**

*The message of Jeremiah is that God never fails. David failed, and the sons of David may fail, but God himself never fails. Phil Ryken*

IOW, I will do what I will do. OR I am that I am.

They are who we thought they were — Dennis Green.

So what do we do with this?

What do we learn about God from this passage?

What do we learn about faithful living?

PRAY

BLESSING

May you and I, may we together, be people who

**Now to him who is able** to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation about Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept silent for long ages <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of the eternal God to advance **the obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles—<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ—to him be the glory forever! Amen. **Rom 16:25–27.**

Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?

<sup>35</sup> And who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid?

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

**Ro 11:33–36.**