

Series: Messages From the Major Prophets

PRAY FOR US UNTO THE LORD

JEREMIAH 42

Text: Jeremiah 42:2

Jeremiah 42:2

² And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

Introduction:

Jeremiah had been called upon to deliver the message of God to his people regarding the judgment that they were going to experience because of turning from God.

In this passage we will consider two things: The Asking for Prayer; and The Answer to the Prayer

Note:

1. THE PRAYER SOUGHT (VS. 1-4)

Note:

A. Their Desire (vs. 1-4)

Jeremiah 42:1-4

¹ Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near, ² And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:) ³ That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do. ⁴ Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard you; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, that whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare it unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.

- They Wanted Prayer Regarding Directions
- They Wanted Prayer Regarding What to Do

2. A PROMISE STATED (VS. 5-6)

Jeremiah 42:5-6

⁵ Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us. ⁶ Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.

Words come easy, often uttered without any thought or sincerity behind them. When we are faced with difficult situations or unknowns, we cry out to God saying, “God show me what I should do and no matter what I will do it.”

“Whether good or evil, we will obey the voice of Jehovah our God”: as believers that ought to be our creed. Even though it may be contrary to our feelings or our desires, we ought always to embrace what God requires and commands.

Far too many serve God out of convenience as long as what God wants is what they want. We need to be willing to obey his voice no matter what.

Note not only the Prayer Sought and the Promise Stated but also:

3. THE PROMISE SHUCKED (JEREMIAH 43:2-7)

It is always amazing the reaction of people when the answers they seek do not come back the way they expect or they wanted.

Jeremiah 43:5-7

*⁵ But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, that were returned from all nations, whither they had been driven, to dwell in the land of Judah; ⁶ Even men, and women, and children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah. ⁷ **So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD:** thus came they even to Tahpanhes. It is always amazing the reaction of people when the answers they seek do not come back the way they expect or they wanted*

The people do not listen to Jeremiah. They were predetermined to follow their own will. They go down to Egypt.

They blatantly reject the promises made to God and worshipped the idols of the world.

Judah conducted themselves just the way that men and women do today. We will serve God as long as everything goes my way.

Note Jeremiah 44:16-18:

Jeremiah 44:16-18

¹⁶ As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. ¹⁷

But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. ¹⁸ But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.

They had promised earlier to obey but they broke their promise and blasphemed God by violating their promise.

When we give our word that we will do something, and then fail to do it, we dishonor God's name.

Many people like Israel make promises to God with absolutely no intention of keeping those promises unless it benefits them, fits in with their plans and ideas, or is to their liking.

Remember:

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. ⁶ Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

4. THE PRODUCT SECURED (JEREMIAH 44:24-28)

Jeremiah 44:24-28

²⁴ Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that are in the land of Egypt: ²⁵ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows. ²⁶

Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; ***Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth.*** ²⁷ ***Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.*** ²⁸ ***Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or theirs.***

Close:

There are many lessons to be learned.

1. We should seek the Lord for our directions and deeds.
2. We should never make a vow and not keep it – for in doing such we dishonor the Lord.

If there are vows that we have not kept lets confess that to the Lord and keep our word.