

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Text: Jeremiah 33:3

Title: Call To Me!

I. God's Command

II. God's Glorious Response

III. God's Great Revelation

As we look at Jeremiah 33:3, first I would like us to consider the background to this verse.

Jeremiah lived about 600 years before Jesus.

Jerusalem had fallen and the Israelites became exiles 放逐 and had been taken away to Babylon.

Jeremiah's task was to call the nation to repentance and trust God, but Israel ignored his call and he was met by resistance.

Others said Jeremiah ought to be more positive. God will deliver us; we are his people, the false prophets said. Jeremiah kept declaring, no He won't unless you turn to Him.

The false prophets advised their leaders to make political alliances 联盟 and military deals in order to solve their problems.

Jeremiah kept saying Israel's strength was in God not chariots and the strength of other nations. They needed to get serious about seeking the Lord and his will.

Jeremiah was imprisoned, ridiculed, harassed, and finally left to die on his own.

Jeremiah 33 is part of a promise that God would one day restore and renew the nation, despite how dark things looked for them.

Our text is a powerful promise of prayer.

It is the Lord who is speaking and issuing the promise. The verse, Jeremiah 33:3, divides into three parts. Let's examine them in order:

I. The Command: "call to me . . ."

Note clearly that prayer is a command 命令.

It is not an option. It is not a suggestion. It is a command.

1 Chronicles 16:11 ¹¹ Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

Three times in his final night's instructions to his disciples before the cross Jesus calls them to claim the promise of prayer:

John 14:13-15 ¹³ "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. ¹⁵ " If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 16:23-24 ²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Certainly prayer is good. There are blessings to be received.

Gives hope

- Despite destruction/scattered 分散 God – pouring out wrath = return
- Vision comes = Jeremiah in prison = doom coming/city verge 濒临 of destruction
- Human experience = all seems lost – but wait, there is a word from Lord

= God declares gracious a invitation = call to me/ I will meet your need

- Invites Jeremiah see wonderful things/ test the Lord/ prove Him

- Must ask – not just assume/ ignorantly expect God to answer/ requires effort

Psalms 145:18-19 ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

Do you believe in prayer? Really believe in prayer.

ILLUS: One day George Mueller looked down the streets of Bristol, England, & saw 1000's of homeless children. He was so moved with concern for them that he decided that something had to be done.

He had only two pence in his pocket. That's two cents. But he decided to start an orphanage. In 60 years, beginning with two pence, George Mueller took care of 10,000 orphans. He looked out & saw homeless kids. He could have said, "I don't have any money. There's no way to care for them, to meet their needs, to buy the food." Instead, he looked at them & said, "I will reach out & help them." And God blessed his efforts in a mighty way.

During his 60 years of ministry, George Mueller never solicited 征集 funds from anyone. Instead he committed himself to pray and ask God for what he needed to keep the orphanage 孤儿院 running. During his 60 years of ministry George Mueller kept a record of his prayers, & his prayer records filled more than 3,000 pages. His notes show that more than 30,000 prayers were answered.

One night there was no food in the orphanage to give to the children for breakfast. But at 3:00 in the morning a baker called him up & said, "I just can't sleep. I'm going down to the bakery to bake some bread. Would it be all right for me to bring some over to you this morning?"

On another occasion a milk truck just happened to break down in front of the orphanage on a day when they had no milk. The truck driver came in & said, "All this milk is going to spoil. Would you like some of it?" And their need was met.

Time & time again, it is said that 30,000 times in 60 years, God answered George Mueller's prayers.

Do you believe in prayer? Do we believe in prayer?
I trust the answer is yes.

But I also suspect that the practice of our faith regarding prayer can be a lot more than it is.

Individually 个别性 and collectively 集体性, I want us to be the kind of praying people and praying church that is more surprised when God doesn't answer prayer than we when he does answer prayer.

Follow the command and pray to your God - leads to 2nd point

II. Glorious response (Jeremiah 33:3 and I will answer you,)

a. Answer promised

- Assertion of text = graciously replies / comes from heaven
- Divine intervention/ God cares – notice (Jeremiah not alone)
- God will not remain silent

-Those that humble themselves/ wait upon God He will never leave nor forsake

Psalm 91:14-16 ¹⁴ "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

These are promises! God will give a glorious response/to those who love Him and seek Him by faith

b. Answer needed

- Voice of man = has no answer – deep need and anxiety – heart
- nation in desperate state – made earthly alliances/ Egypt party
- Babylon knocking at the door / no hope alliances / enemy greater

- In fact = Jeremiah sought to deliver His message – no answer from man

Jeremiah 7:27-28 ²⁷ "Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you. ²⁸ "So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished 毁灭 and has been cut off from their mouth.

Only answer from man – Does not last / no truth
= God is only reality in this mixed up world

Today if you're feel your mixed up and have no answers = Christ meets your longing heart

c. Answer given

- vs. 4 thus says the Lord = declares that the city will be taken, houses and palace thrown down and wickedness judged
- Dead fill streets if they fight the Chaldeans = told to surrender & submit

Not all lost = God hides face for time = yet comes with an answer

God was active to bring His people through the fire of affliction.
= restore again

Vs. 6 (first part) cure again / health to that which needs attention
God cares about His people /those who seek and trust Him for salvation

Thus, prayer is not some auto-suggestion, self-hypnosis 自我催眠, getting in touch with your inner strength, or some sort of psychological placebo 心理安慰剂 that makes you feel better.

Prayer is not simply meditation on higher thoughts, self-counseling, or releasing some innate human potential.

Prayer is verbal communication with the Living God, who hears and answers.

Earth prays; heaven responds. Faith calls; God answers.

III. Great revelation (*Jeremiah 33:3 and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*')

a. Unknown by man

vb. cut off, make inaccessible (esp. by fortifying), **enclose -- Qal**

Same word used for the cities of Canaan - *the towns are great and walled up to heaven;*

- Israel's self confidence = damned them because they looked to false prophets

- Naturally discerned/trusted in flesh/ not know God – gospel of grace – God's thoughts higher - their thoughts/ need divine intervention - understand

b. God reveals profound 深刻 things

Great and mighty = one thought – intensified = profound revelation

- God makes known what he shall do = plans for this people – give expected end

- What is revealed to them? Vs 6 answer and read to vs. 9

c. Revealed to them Christ

Righteous branch 15-16 = Christ root out dry ground/ true peace

Only true peace & restoration = Prince of peace = restores fellowship between God and man

Perhaps you are in need of spiritual strength and enlightenment. God gives those who call upon Him access to His throne of grace!

Whatever you need, God has an answer for you if you will call upon Him.

TRANS: Not only does God answer those who call upon Him, His provisions are greater than our petitions.

CONCLUSION:

God's provisions are greater than our needs. Paul echoed this in his letter to the Ephesians when he wrote,
Ephesians 3:20-21 ²⁰ *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,* ²¹ *to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

ILLUS: When the little boy placed his tiny lunch in Jesus' hands, it fed 5000 and there was enough left over to fill 12 baskets.

God can answer you greater than you can pray!

Seek Him /call upon Him / He will show you answers

Astounding things which you do not know = lead you to Christ.

Although life busy = seek God to renew your Spiritual life

= Make sure to take care of big things in life

- Little things will follow!

Jeremiah 33:3 ³ *'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'*