

Call Me - Jeremiah 33:1-3
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

This week in the *Our Favorite Things* series we come to Carla Moore's favorite passage. Carla serves Genesis as our Administrator. Her favorite verse is Jeremiah 33:3. On the simple end, this verse is an invitation from God to Jeremiah and to us to call to Him in prayer. Calling on God is an idea repeated throughout the Scriptures drawing God's people to prayer. It is synonymous with the idea of calling on the Name of the Lord, an invocation of God in relationship summoning on Him to act on behalf of those who trust Him. To call on God is dependant and desperate prayer prompted by the One who is able to respond. The truth here is that genuinely calling on God is the simplest act of faith and dependence on God and leads to His care and grace in our lives. Romans 10:13 reminds us that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.

So, this is no generic, ritualistic, repetitive prayer. To call on the Lord begins with our acknowledgment of the One True and Living God is who Creator and Savior. I read information from a study on the frequency of prayer by people in our culture which revealed that the people most likely to pray every single day are Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. This is sad, as they actually have embraced false views of Jesus and therefore are crying out to an idolatrous false God who cannot save. We, on the other hand know the Trinitarian Creator and Redeemer of all, yet often find it difficult to cry to Him with urgency out of our need. So hear the invitation given to Jeremiah, call to Me, and hear the invitation to prayer that seek God and knows He hears.

Then look at the promises God gives. First, God says He will answer, the promise that He hears us and will respond. When we pray, calling out on God in trust we get His ears. That does not mean God is going to be our Jeanie popping out whatever we ask. His answers are deeply rooted in His purpose for us as individuals, for His people, and to accomplish His redemptive purpose. Yet, the these promises also guarantee His blessing and presence through the worst of circumstances. Furthermore, God promises Jeremiah that He will get His voice. God tells Jeremiah that calling on the Lord will lead to God showing the marvelous, magnificent, and unbelievable plan He has ordained for His purposes and glory. For Jeremiah, this was the prophetic Word given to him in the moment and for his situation (more on this in a moment). For us, we have the Scriptures, which contain Jeremiah's prophetic word along with those of all the inspired writers who recorded God's voice revealing Himself, His purposes, and His ways. This Word always points us to Jesus who is the presence of God with us, and the salvation of God by dying for us. This passage is deeply Christ-centered, and to understand its full meaning we have to take a look at Jeremiah's situation and the Word he received.

Chapter 33 begins by telling us, "The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard." For 40 years Jeremiah has served Judah as a prophet, speaking the very Word of God to the people. Yet, at the time these words were not encouraging, rather they were warnings of an impending judgment sent by God because of Israel's continued falling away, idolatry, and horrible wicked and unjust practices. This passage is near the end of his ministry and life, but the message of God's grace was always mixed in as an invitation to repent and return to God and experience salvation. Yet, Jeremiah's message was ignored and he was even persecuted. But now the Babylonian armies have rolled through the northern end of the Promised Land and have surrounded the capital city of Jerusalem, laying siege. By the time the story is completed Israel will have its darkest day ever, with the walls breached, the city fallen, the king captured and dragged with a ring in his nose off to Babylon to be a spectacle to the crowds there, and the rest of the inhabitants of the city either dead or deported to Babylon. They are trying to defend the city, and the King, Zedekiah is still seeking "prophets" who will promise God's deliverance and defense of the city of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Jeremiah is staying true to the Lord proclaiming what God has said assuring the eventual fall of the city to Babylon. So Zedekiah got fed up with Jeremiah, having him arrested and thrown into a jail to be guarded by his highest commanders. So, get this, Jeremiah is watching the city he grew up and loves attacked by a

foreign army knowing the outcome was that the city would fall and devastation is coming. Moreover, Jeremiah has been put in prison for being faithful to proclaim God's message to the king and the people calling them to turn to God and repent, which they will not do. It is from this hopelessness that God gives this invitation to call to Him and the promise of His ear and His Word. It is from here that God gives several promises for the Jews. The first is hard, the city will fall and the kingdom handed over. Yet, God also promises that this does not mean He has lost or that He is done with these people. Rather, there is the promise of a future return to the city by exiles and a renewal of the worship of God by His people. But more importantly, there is the promise of "a righteous Branch to spring up for David (Jeremiah 33:15), a direct promise of the coming of Jesus.

This is where the call to the Lord always leads us, to the saving purpose of God in the person of Jesus and into relationship with Him. So call to Him. The promise is that He will hear, He will answer, and He will show you the blessed and glorious truths of the Gospel.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Genesis 49	Genesis 50	Philemon 1	Eshter 1	Esther 2	Esther 3	Esther 4

Reading from this past week: Jeremiah 33:1-3

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Philemon 1:1-25

Family Worship

Song - *Rock of Ages*

https://youtu.be/9L_Ng5AtNhc

Gospel Project

Story: Brothers in Christ

Story Point: Paul encouraged Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother in Christ.

Big Picture Question: What will happen to all Christians in the future?

Answer: One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

Scripture: Philemon 1

New City Catechism

Question #29: How can we be saved?

Answer: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross.

Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:1-3

- What was the situation that Jeremiah found himself in when he heard this Word from the Lord? Why might this be helpful for us as we think about calling on the Lord in prayer?
- How does God describe Himself in verse 2? Why is it important that our prayers not be to a generic deity?
- What does it mean to call on the Lord? How can you as an individual, we as a family, and our church as God's people be more intentional to call on His Name?

Prayer

*Pray that you as an individual and we as a church would be marked by our calling out to God in dependent and desperate prayer.

*Pray for Pastor Evan Skelton, his wife Grace, and their family as they continue the work of replanting Bayless Church. We are a supporting church giving both financially and in missional support.