

## JEREMIAH'S BET

Text: Jeremiah 32:1-27

INTRODUCTION: There come times in every man's life when outward circumstances discourage faith. Jeremiah was in such a situation. Nebuchadnezzar's armies were already incamped around the city and the prophet was in jail, being put there by the King. And no wonder! The message that he was preaching was immensely unpopular. He was preaching that their enemies were going to win, but that some day the land would be restored to the people. But he was advocating surrender to the enemy! While leaving the city one day he was accused of treason. The House Committee on Un-Jerusalem Activities met and caused him to be put in jail.

If ever he would take a dim view of the future it would be now.

### I. THE RE-AFFIRMING OF FAITH. (Verses 1-15)

While Jeremiah was in prison he had an unusual visitor; unusual because it was his cousin--all his kin folk had turned against him. It was unusual because of the purpose of the visit: to sell Jeremiah a farm. Have you ever tried to sell a man in prison a farm? It was unusual because the farm was in the hands of the enemy!

Why did he want to sell it to Jeremiah? He needed money, and Jeremiah was his next of kin. The law said it had to be kept in the family. But more than that, it was to test Jeremiah's preaching. Jeremiah had said that houses and lands would be bought again in the country, even though it would be destroyed now. The cousin probably thought, "If he is foolish enough to preach such a message, he is foolish enough to buy the farm."

1. This caused Jeremiah to re-examine his preaching. He had been preaching a message of hope in spite of the present darkness.

Outward circumstances contradicted his preaching.  
But if Jeremiah had not bought the farm, no one would have ever listened to him preach again.

~~There are times when we must re-examine our beliefs.~~

2. This caused him to re-affirm his faith in God and the future.

Verse 8-"Then I knew." Knowledge from experience.



His hope in the future was not based on the armies of Israel, nor the moral purity of the people, nor in institutional religion, but in a personal experiential knowledge of God,

Ill--Judson, while in prison. "What is the future of missions now?" "Bright as the promises of God."

Do not always judge by the outward circumstances. Jeremiah's faith make him look foolish to those who did not know God as he did.

Paul: "Fools for Christ's sake." "Much learning hath made thee made."

Christ: "He is beside himself."

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God."

On what is your hope of the future based? Everyone hopes for something better in the future. With no hope, we are miserable. If your hope of the future is not based on a personal experience with God, it is folly.

*We bet on faith in God's future*

If we can come with a personal experience with God, it does not matter if the enemy is at the gate.

3. This caused him to act on the known will of God,

Verse 9--"I bought..." He preached it, believed it, acted on it---invested in it. Faith that is not worth investing in, is not worth believing in.

- (1) The investing of money
- (2) The investing of time
- (3) The investing of life--young people--must invest your life in something---invest it in the will of God---His bank is solvent--brings forth rich dividends.

I wish we could stop here, but we see next:

II. THE RE-LASPE OF FAITH--THE RISING OF DOUBT. (verses 16-25)

Jeremiah is human. Verse 16--"Now <sup>when</sup> AFTER..." He had had a great spiritual experience and had made a decision of committal to the will of God. Now after it was all over, began to doubt. "Did I do the right thing?"

Verse 25--"<sup>For</sup>WHEREAS...." No sooner had Jeremiah performed his duty than doubts began to come. What a stupid thing to do!

We do this. We have a warm emotional experience--decide to win souls, tithe, teach--after emotions gone, church over--"What did I do?" Sometimes we perform our duty with honest doubts. What should we do about doubts/ There are two alternatives.



1. Some people publish them.

They tell everyone about them. Doubt is a disease that is highly contagious. "We can't do it, etc."

2. Some people pray about them.

This is what Jeremiah did. He brought his complaints and doubts to God.

God's promises surpass our comprehension. His word and will are often riddles to us. But prayer such as Jeremiah's recalls God's omnipotence and wisdom. There is not always a rational explanation. Some things we have to let God know for Himself.

### III. THE RE-ASSURANCE OF GOD. (verse 26,27)

1- "The word of the Lord came." This is the result of such prayer. Sometimes one word from the Lord can dispell the darkness of doubt and fear.

*I know I can do it*  
2- In replying to Jeremiah the Lord used the same words he had uttered in his prayer (vs. 17). "You have just said that nothing is too hard for me. Do you really believe that?" This is exactly like our own experiences. Jeremiah had confessed his faith in God's power. In His answer the Lord declares that He is the "God of all flesh." He is the Strong, Powerful, Creator-Ruler of all flesh. We need to keep in mind this fact: that all men are just flesh, dust. Before God man is flesh, a weak, sinful, mortal being. Neither the bitterest hatred of the strongest of His enemies nor the doubts and misgivings of His perplexed and puzzled child can nullify the plans and purposes of God. "Nothing is too hard for me."

3- In verses 36-44, God repeats His promise to Jeremiah. He comes in the midst of doubt with reassurance.

CONCLUSION: Nothing is too hard for God. All His promises are fulfilled in Christ. "I can do all things through Christ..." He is able to cleanse, pardon, strengthen, comfort and give peace to the troubled heart.