

Call to Me

Reading: Jer 32:36-33:3

Context

- ☞ Babylonians on the advance!
- ☞ God has revealed Himself as a God for whom nothing is too hard for - **32:17; 32:27**.
- ☞ A God who delights in blessing His people - **32:40-42**.
- ☞ Jeremiah in prison for speaking God's word. Limited, constrained. In the context of that, God speaks. God as it were throws down the gauntlet to Jeremiah and also to each one of us today.

1. Call

Call on God, cry out to Him, seek Him! We can happily nod that we know nothing is too hard for God etc but all that will be meaningless unless we act like it is true. How do we do that? Pray & pray like we mean it!

Imperative!

- ☞ God knows our tendency not to take Him up with His staggering promises!
- ☞ Our inclination to rely upon ourselves – in case of emergency!
- ☞ Our heavy hearts – burdened, condemned.
- ☞ Too trivial to bring to God!

Php 4:6 – *do not be anxious about **anything** but in **everything** by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

2. I will answer

Why does God say He will do? Answer! What a wonderful promise! Great in itself! But:

2.1 How will God answer?

By showing us great and mighty things we have not known! God wants to answer our prayers visibly & meaningfully, not just in some abstract way! This is a promise to get you out of bed in the morning!

3. Things you do not know

God says He will show us things we do not know. This can apply to us seeking His will as regards decisions etc but I want to dig a bit deeper.

The word know means to know experientially, to know by relationship, in your heart not just your head. Taking us beyond where we are now. God wants to move us on! This verse isn't necessarily about "stuff" but - intimacy with God, the greatness of this salvation, fullness of the Spirit, guidance, fruitfulness.

I thank God for the relationship I have with Him, for being justified but there are so many other blessings God has for us that will only come about in our lives by prayer - asking God, seeking, earnestness and pressing into new realms on and with Him. **Matt 11:12** *From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.*

3.1 Deut 1

Deut 1:6-8 *"The LORD our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the*

*Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. ⁸**See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land** that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.'*

Going round in circles! They'd got good teaching etc but needed to move on!

As Christians our Promised Land is this great salvation that Jesus has purchased for us. It is so much more than a ticket to Heaven when you die!

We need to **take hold of our Promised Land** and **one of the ways we do that is by prayer**, by laying hold of God in prayer and calling to Him.

Remember the context of this verse - the nation in turmoil, Jeremiah limited & restricted - yet in prayer God can take a hold of us and take us into areas in Him that we do not know and are beyond our current experience and knowledge. Ask yourself - what would your life be like, what could happen if you seriously took God at His word and called to Him?

God has taken the lock off the door of His storerooms and all the riches of Christ and of Heaven are ours for the asking. What I want to do today, what I want to happen is for the Holy Spirit to take a hold of each one of us and life up our prayer lives to a new level.

☞ A new level of expectancy.

☞ A fresh understanding of all that could be ours.

Pray God's word

In **Jer 29** we read that Jeremiah prophesied that the Jews would be captives in Babylon for 70 years. Sixty nine years later, in Babylon, Daniel is reading the scroll of Jeremiah (we can date it by **v1-2**). **Dan 9:2-3** *in the first year of Darius' reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.* What did Jeremiah do then? Claim the promise by faith?

³Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. He sought God, he cried out earnestly to Him! One year later – the Jews returned!!

Thank God for all the promises He has given – but one of the ways we make them solid in our lives is by earnest prayer.

Can i encourage you to take hold of the promises of God and pray them back to Him? E.G **Acts 2:17ff** – *I will pour out my Spirit...*

James 5:16 - *The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].*

Who is that righteous man? Who is the most righteous person in the meeting?

I believe God is throwing down the gauntlet to people this morning and challenging us in prayer.

☞ Make time to pray.

☞ Pray with expectancy.

☞ Pray bigger! Not wild prayers but the promises of God – they are staggering.

"Lord make me as holy as a pardoned sinner can be." R M M'Cheyne

N.T Prayers – Eph 1:16ff, Eph 3, Php 1

Come before God, cry out to Him - He will answer and take you way beyond yourself in ways you couldn't even imagine -

Eph 3:20 *Now to Him Who is able to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams] — to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Jer 33:3