

Jeremiah 32

Have you had a non-logical request or command before? Is it a logical action to fulfill that request even it doesn't seem right?

Today we study Jeremiah's situation on such command. The Israelites' situation was not good at the time of Jeremiah chapter 32 (587BC). The northern kingdom Israel was destroyed about 722BC, and 587BC was the end period of the southern kingdom Judah. Verse 2 described the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem. Verses 3-5 talked about king of Judah imprisoned Jeremiah because his prophesy about the Babylon would take over Judah.

1) God's calling might not be logical to you (Verses 6-8)

a. **Non-logical calling**

Verse 6 described the Lord told Jeremiah to buy a piece of land in Anathoth which is in the war zone. When the Babylon take over that is expected in the near future, the land ownership might not be there. In addition, why would his relative go to him in jail for this request? It didn't seem to be logical.

b. **Confirmation of God's calling**

Jeremiah's cousin came to him and requested the same as the Lord told him. This is a clear confirmation of God's calling for this action – buy this land although it didn't seem logical.

2) Your response shall be faithful (Verses 9-14)

Jeremiah responded and bought the land as the Lord told him. He has faith that God has His purpose even the action might not seem too logical to others. In fact, he made sure that deed is properly witnessed and executed. Afterward, he ensured the deed is well kept by putting them in a clay jar. In those days, that is the way to protect and store important document. For example, the Dead Sea Scrolls were kept in this type of clay jar in a cave.

3) The final outcome might not happen in one's lifetime

Verse 15 stated the Lord will restore the region as "Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land." It did not mention when.

a. **Pray to God**

Although God said He will restore the country but Jeremiah didn't know when. He has faith to do what the Lord told him. Jeremiah also continued his prayer life in jail. He acknowledged God is sovereign and nothing is impossible to Him. God continued to reveal His plan to Jeremiah.

b. Might not see the end result in one's lifetime

Verses 36 to 44 described God would restore the Israelites in their land. Jeremiah had the faith to purchase the land but he died before God's restoration. Jeremiah never saw the end result in his lifetime on earth.

In conclusion, have faith in God's calling although it might not seem too logical to you. Continue pray to God so that God can give you assurance and peace as you go forward with His calling.

Today, it's not likely God calls you to buy a piece of property in the war zone while you are in jail or permanently disabled in a hospital. But we can apply what we have learned in our daily life. Many years ago while I was attending a Chinese Christian Church, an old Caucasian man visited the church. He didn't understand Chinese and so all he did was sit in the fellowship hall alone for lunch. God moved my heart to talk to him although I was thinking God can use me more to outreach to Chinese newcomers during lunch. However, I talked to him every Sunday after service whenever he came. He said "he is a lawyer" but his appearance and actions seem more like a person with serious financial need. He never left his phone number nor address to me and the church. I was faithful doing that although I was not sure how open he was to the gospel. I was thinking only by God's love, that is our friendship and the Church's hospitality, can bring him closer to Christ. One time he found out my wife and I were teaching English to Chinese church attendees that were recently from China. He liked to be with us. My wife and I welcomed him although it was pretty odd to the class members. I later introduced him as partner in teaching so that he could feel his significance in God's eye and welcomed in God's church. One night while I was in a business trip, I got a call from my English pastor. He said the local government called him about a homeless person died, and only info from the homeless shelter is that he had attended our church. My pastor said "you are the one in the church that knows that person". I couldn't attend his funeral but my pastor did. He had no relatives and only several people attended in his funeral. I didn't see him before he died, and didn't know whether he accepted Christ as savior or not. Similar to Jeremiah's case, we might not know the true ending in our life time on earth, but be faithful to do what God has called you is important.
