

Morning Sermon Outline

December 6, 2015

"Call Unto Me" Jeremiah 33:3

Jeremiah 33:3 has been called God's phone number, because in this verse God invites us to pray! For Jeremiah it was a cold winter prayer, with a Christmas Answer!

I. We should take note of this grand invitation, this command, this call to pray –

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

1. First, see it as part of God's general expression, He wants us to pray –
pray without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NKJ)

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (Matthew 6:9 NKJ)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:7-11 NKJ)

2. God calls us to prayer, because He is calling us into a relationship and knowledge of Himself, which is the BEST THING for us

–
Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

II. Yet, this invitation to PRAY must be seen in its special command-to-Jeremiah context –

1. Jeremiah was already praying, consider chapter 32...

"Now when I had delivered the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Ne-riah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: (Jeremiah 32:16 NKJ)

SEE and read the rest of chapter 32 – example ...

`And You have said to me, O Lord GOD, "Buy the field for money, and take witnesses"!– yet the city has been given into the hand of the Chal-deans.'" (Jeremiah 32:25 NKJ)

The gist of Jeremiah's prayer is, why Lord GOD are You wanting me to buy land in a city which is being taken by our enemies? The gist of God's answer is 'I will restore!'

2. Yet, Jeremiah's vantage point is a prison –

Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying, ² "Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): (Jeremiah 33:1-2 NKJ)

3. So Jeremiah 33:3 is not just an invitation to start praying, it is an invitation to PRAY AGAIN, to KEEP PRAYING, and it is an PRAY SPECIFICALLY for an ability to SEE:

- A. Beyond his prison
- B. Beyond Jerusalem's destruction
- C. To Christmas
- D. And Beyond!

C.S. Lewis spoke of Narnia as a place where it was "always winter but never Christmas" and Jeremiah in prison, while Jerusalem was being destroyed was just such a place!

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

III. What great and mighty things does God show to Jeremiah?

1. God's wrath against the ungodly and their worthless efforts to maintain the status quo –

A. *The false prophets were prophesying "peace, peace" when there was no peace –*

They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is* no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14 NKJ)

"We looked for peace, but no good *came*; And for a time of health, and there was trouble! (Jeremiah 8:15 NKJ)

B. *They were preaching the Temple of the LORD while denying any need for repentance ...*

⁴ "Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.' ⁵ "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, ⁶ "if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, ⁷ "then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. ⁸ "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. (Jeremiah 7:4-8 NKJ)

C. *These who would later swear allegiance to the Queen of Heaven rather than to God would be swept away, judged, condemned – Jeremiah 44:17-27*

D. *None of their self-fortifications will save them –*

⁴ "For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah, which have been pulled down *to fortify* against the siege mounds and the sword: ⁵ "They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but *only* to fill their places with the dead bodies of men whom I will slay in My anger and My fury, all for whose wickedness I have hidden My face from this city. (Jeremiah 33:4-5 NKJ)

2. *Yet, there will be health, healing, rebuilding and forgiveness of every kind of sin –*

"Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. ⁷ "And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first. ⁸ "I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. (Jeremiah 33:6-8 NKJ)

3. *Joy would be restored –*

¹⁰ "Thus says the LORD: "Again there shall be heard in this place-- of which you say, "It is desolate, without man and without beast "-- in the

cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast,

¹¹ "the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: "Praise the LORD of hosts, For the LORD *is* good, For His mercy *endures* forever "-- *and* of those *who will* bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the LORD. (Jeremiah 33:10-11 NKJ)

<A Song of Ascents.> When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." (Psalm 126:1-2 NKJ)

IV. *The Joy is the Joy of Christmas and of Christ –*

1. *Shepherds -*

¹² "Thus says the LORD of hosts: "In this place which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there shall again be a dwelling place of shepherds causing *their* flocks to lie down. (Jeremiah 33:12 NKJ)

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. (Luke 2:8 NKJ)

2. *An eternal King and kingdom –*

¹⁵ "In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this *is the name* by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' (Jeremiah 33:15-16 NKJ)

¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: "David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; (Jeremiah 33:17 NKJ)

Nebuchadnezzar saw the same thing and Daniel a captive had the privilege of interpreting it –

⁴⁴ "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Daniel 2:44 NKJ)

¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:16 NKJ)

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