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Have I Got a Deal for You!
Series: The Weeping Prophet
The Village Church at Shell Point
Evening Service
September 25, 2022

I. **Real Estate Values**

- A. **Location**, location, and location
 - 1. Landfill, strip mine, nuclear power plant v. Residential neighborhood, gated community
 - 2. Good schools v. bad schools
 - 3. Good health care v. bad health care
 - 4. High taxes v. low taxes
- B. **Anticipation**
 - 1. Growth v. decline
 - a. Morgantown v. Grafton
 - 2. Planning and zoning
 - a. Residential plans v. strip mall
 - 3. Economic prospects
- C. **Personal circumstances**
 - 1. Can you deal with it?
 - a. Possible purchase in old Suncrest – should sell this with a handyman
 - 2. Seller going through a divorce
 - a. Can't afford to purchase
 - b. Have to sell quickly
 - 3. Other personal circumstances
 - a. Age
 - b. Expected time of residence
 - c. Etc.

II. **Least Favorite Relative**

- A. The cousin no one wants to see at family reunion
- B. The cousin from whom you never hear
 - 1. When you do hear from them, they want something
- C. The cousin who's always selling something

III. **The Transaction**

- A. Jeremiah 32 – Jeremiah makes a real estate transaction
 - 1. Home of Anathoth
 - a. Suburb of Jerusalem
- B. **Jeremiah 32:1–5** (ESV) —

1. 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.
2. 2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah.
3. 3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "Why do you prophesy and say, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it;
4. 4 Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye.
5. 5 And he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I visit him, declares the LORD. Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed'?"

C. **Setting**

1. 10th year of Zedekiah; 18th year of Nebuchadnezzar
 - a. Would last only one more year
 - b. Time of deterioration of Judah and Jerusalem
 - c. Anticipation – don't buy
2. Army besieging Jerusalem
 - a. Field may have been a staging area for army!
 - b. Location – don't buy
3. Shut up in courtyard of guard (jail)
 - a. Open-ended sentence – no way of knowing when he'd be released, or if he'd be released
 - b. Couldn't do anything with the field
 - c. Personal circumstances – don't buy
4. Because of Zedekiah
 - a. In prison because the king was angry at him
 - (1) Treason
 - (2) Because he counseled surrender
 - b. Kings tend not to tolerate treason
 - c. Might have been on death row!
 - d. Ryken: ... buying *a* farm becomes less appealing when there is a good chance of buying *the* farm.
 - e. Personal circumstances – don't buy
5. Give this city into Babylon
 - a. If they get the city, they've already gotten the suburbs
 - b. Field will be in the hands of Babylon, no longer under legal jurisdiction of Judah
 - (1) No legal protection to enforce terms of transaction
 - c. Like someone selling you a deed for a property in Afghanistan
 - d. Location – don't buy
6. Worst possible time to buy a field in Anathoth

- a. Location
 - b. Anticipation
 - c. Personal circumstances
- D. **Jeremiah 32:6–8** (ESV) —
1. 6 Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me:
 2. 7 Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’
 3. 8 Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.
- E. **Fortunate warning**
1. At least Jeremiah knew his least favorite cousin was coming
 - a. Knew what he was going to say
 - b. Knew the argument he was going to use (right of redemption)
 2. **Ruth 4:1–12** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down.
 - b. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down.
 - c. 3 Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.
 - d. 4 So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.”
 - e. 5 Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.”
 - f. 6 Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”
 - g. 7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel.
 - h. 8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal.
 - i. 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are

witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon.

j. 10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.”

k. 11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,

l. 12 and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

3. Cousin shows up as expected

a. Makes his argument as expected

F. **Jeremiah 32:9–14** (ESV) —

1. 9 “And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.

2. 10 I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.

3. 11 Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy.

4. 12 And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard.

5. 13 I charged Baruch in their presence, saying,

6. 14 ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time.

G. **Bought the field**

1. Hanamel must have been stunned

a. Expected a tough sell

(1) Bad location

(2) Bad anticipation

(3) Bad personal circumstances

2. Sale was easy

a. Staples commercial: “That was easy!”

3. Ran off with glee

a. Just sold a worthless property which enable him to have some cash as he snuck out of town

H. **Deeds**

1. Complete verified transaction – just as we would do today
 - a. Witnesses
 - b. Terms and conditions
 - c. Copies
 - d. Signing
 - e. Preservation (safe deposit box)
 - (1) Cf Dead Sea scrolls contained deeds

IV. **The Reason**

- A. **Jeremiah 32:15** (ESV) —
 1. 15 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’
- B. God’s promise
 1. Real estate
 2. Functioning agriculture
 3. Peace
- C. Anticipation is better than expected
- D. Location is better than expected
- E. Transaction seemed to be foolish to everyone else
 1. With God’s promise, Jeremiah looked at it as a steal
 - a. Bargain basement price for land that would be valuable
 - (1) If not for him, for his family
- F. Why Jeremiah went to such trouble to secure the transaction
 1. When the time came, no doubt about who owned the land

V. **Buyer’s Remorse – The Prayer**

- A. After making significant transaction, realize what he’s done
 1. Law in US – 72 hours to change your mind
 2. No such law back then
- B. Prays – which is what you do when you think you’ve done something stupid
- C. **Jeremiah 32:16–22** (ESV) —
 1. 16 “After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying:
 2. 17 ‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.
 3. 18 You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts,
 4. 19 great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds.
 5. 20 You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day.

6. 21 You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror.
 7. 22 And you gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- D. **Ah, Lord God!**
1. Prayer of desperation
 2. Spirit-led
 3. **Romans 8:26–27** (ESV) —
 - a. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
 - b. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- E. **Attributes of God**
1. Creator
 2. Omnipotence
 - a. Nothing is too difficult for You
 3. Lovingkindness
 4. Justice
 5. Lord of hosts – commander of army of heaven
 6. Wisdom
 7. Omniscience
 8. Revelatory
 9. Name – fame
- F. **Acts of God**
1. Redemption of Israel from Egypt
 - a. Manifestation of power
 2. Gave them land
- G. When you pray, pray like that
1. You may find that some of your own concerns get swallowed up in your recitation of God’s greatness
- H. **Jeremiah 32:23–24** (ESV) —
1. 23 And they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did nothing of all you commanded them to do. Therefore you have made all this disaster come upon them.
 2. 24 Behold, the siege mounds have come up to the city to take it, and because of sword and famine and pestilence the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you spoke has come to pass, and behold, you see it.
- I. Realistic description of circumstances
1. Lack of covenant obedience led to calamity
- J. Specific about circumstances
1. Siege ramps
 2. City about to fall

- 3. Famine and pestilence
- K. All based on God's prophetic word
- L. **Jeremiah 32:25** (ESV) —
 - 1. 25 Yet you, O Lord GOD, have said to me, "Buy the field for money and get witnesses"—though the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans.' "
- M. This is the predicament
 - 1. "Are you sure???"
 - 2. No idiot would make this transaction, but I did it
 - a. Because You told me to!

VI. **God's Answer**

- A. More answer than Jeremiah wanted
- B. **Jeremiah 32:26–27** (ESV) —
 - 1. 26 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
 - 2. 27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"
- C. Is anything too hard for Me?
 - 1. **Jeremiah 32:17** (ESV) —
 - a. 17 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.
 - 2. Beware of God repeating back to you something that you said
- D. **Jeremiah 32:28–29** (ESV) —
 - 1. 28 Therefore, thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall capture it.
 - 2. 29 The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city shall come and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger.
- E. God gets specific about the sins
 - 1. Consequences fit the crime
- F. **Jeremiah 32:30–33** (ESV) —
 - 1. 30 For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth. The children of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands, declares the LORD.
 - 2. 31 This city has aroused my anger and wrath, from the day it was built to this day, so that I will remove it from my sight
 - 3. 32 because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger—their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
 - 4. 33 They have turned to me their back and not their face. And though I

- have taught them persistently, they have not listened to receive instruction.
- G. Historical perspective on evil
1. God's anger warranted
 2. Everyone participated
 - a. One wonders if God would have relented if just one group was faithful to the covenant
 3. Rejected instruction – again and again
- H. **Jeremiah 32:34–35** (ESV) —
1. 34 They set up their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it.
 2. 35 They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.
- I. Even worse – religious defilement
1. Temple defiled
 2. Idolatry
 3. Human sacrifice to Molech
- J. **Jeremiah 32:36** (ESV) —
1. 36 “Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’:
- K. Logical conclusion – judgment of God
1. At this point Jeremiah is saying, “That’s exactly my point! What a stupid idea buying a piece of land when you’re justly bringing disaster on this place!”
- L. **Jeremiah 32:37** (ESV) —
1. 37 Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.
- M. “Behold” – expectation for further judgment on such a wicked people
1. But God talks about gathering them back in!
 - a. In spite of their sin and just judgment
 2. Make them dwell in safety
 - a. The opposite of what is happening before their eyes!
 3. Shocking change
- N. **Jeremiah 32:38–42** (ESV) —
1. 38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.
 2. 39 I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.
 3. 40 I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.
 4. 41 I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

5. 42 “For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them.”
- O. Covenant language – relationship, communion
1. Regeneration – New covenant promises
 - a. God will grant the capacity and inclination to obey
 2. Everlasting covenant
 3. Rejoice over them
 - a. God’s disposition toward His people will be radically changed
 4. “All My heart, all My soul” – God’s unshakeable commitment
 5. Radical reversal of fortunes
 - a. All of grace
 - b. These people have done nothing to deserve this
 - c. Covenant obedience is the result of the covenant, not its condition
- P. **Jeremiah 32:43–44** (ESV) —
1. 43 Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, ‘It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’
 2. 44 Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD.”
- Q. Brings the answer to the focus of Jeremiah’s prayer
1. Real estate will be good again
 - a. Location
 - b. Anticipation (conditions)
 - c. Personal circumstances
 2. The whole transactions will be honored in just the way Jeremiah completed his
 3. The surrounding areas of Jerusalem will be included
 - a. Including Anathoth
 4. Fortunes restored
 5. This was a good deal
- VII. **Jeremiah’s transaction applied**
- A. Responded to promise of God
 1. Even though that promise wouldn’t be fulfilled until 70 years later
 - B. Are you willing to respond to the promises of God, even when you won’t see the result?
 1. Share gospel with people who seem impossible to reach?
 2. Send missionaries to places which seem impossible?
 3. Go as missionaries when called, even when task seems impossible?
 - C. Knowing that God has promised that His kingdom will prevail
 - D. Do you trust God enough to do what the world will surely regard as foolish?
 1. Confident that God will be honored and glorified in the end