

Introduction: I am speaking with both child-like innocence and adolescent cynicism: why do people tend to always look for the easy way to accomplish what they know deep down inside will be difficult and require both sacrifice and perseverance? The extra problems caused by taking shortcuts usually result in twice the difficulty and pain that would have resulted from doing the right thing, the right way, from the start. I like the song from Switchfoot's pandemic album concluding with these words: I always learn things the hard way. This is a truth for both Christians and non-Christians. (The song and the lyric are both on YouTube, only if you like alt-rock!) *** Christians know Jesus has commanded them to take up their cross (Luke 9:23-24). This means they die daily to themselves, their desires and their inclination to avoid doing what is right in God's eyes because they know it will be difficult (1 Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:19-20; 5:24-25; 6:14-16). In our own strength and wisdom it is impossible to live as a redeemed child of God IN Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. We must pray consistent with what we know of God from His Word we have ingested every day (Matthew 19:23-26; Psalm 119:9-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5). *** Our passage about Jeremiah and the people of Judah in the last year of the Babylonian siege that led to the death of the majority of the people and most of those that survived being led away into seventy years of exile (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10-14) is an example of what I described as a flaw in human nature. It is difficult to stay faithful to God and His instruction in Scripture in a decadent society that mocks God's people. But taking the evil way of approving, and even following, the immoral practices of ignorant people will result in experiencing extreme discipline from God. But, when the time of discipline is ended there is a restoration of the covenant relationship with God and the blessings He graciously bestows in this life. Jeremiah's action showed he had faith in God's words to him. ***Yahweh illustrates His restoration from exile by Jeremiah purchasing a field*** *** The song of ascent we heard describes how we should live and what our attitudes should be so we can obey God in sorrow to later enjoy His full love and blessing. *** We're ready to see in more detail how it is always better to submit to doing God's difficult will.

I. Yahweh has Jeremiah redeem his family land inheritance to show He will restore His people to their land when His wrath over their defiling His Temple and killing their children for Molech subsides. (*Jeremiah 32:6-15, 30, 34-35*)

A. Yahweh sends Jeremiah to his cousin in Benjamin to redeem the family land inheritance because He will restore His people to their land. (*Verses 6-15*)

1. Then Jeremiah said the word of Yahweh came to me: Behold! Hanamel, son of your uncle Shallum, (is) coming to you to say: you must buy my field in Anathoth for it (is) your redemption right to buy it. (*Verses 6-7*)

Redemption of land: In the last year of the Babylonian siege, which will destroy Judah to captivity (verse 1); Jeremiah's cousin approaches him with the opportunity to redeem family land, three miles from Jerusalem and Jeremiah's priestly home town (1:1).

2. Then my cousin came to me according to Yahweh's word in the court of the guard: You must buy, please, my field in Benjamin, for it is yours to buy by the right of redemption; then I knew that this was Yahweh's word. (*Verse 8*)

From Yahweh: When Jeremiah's cousin did what Yahweh said, Jeremiah knew it was from Yahweh.

3. Then I bought the field in Anathoth; I weighed to him seventeen shekels of silver; I signed the deed and sealed it; and I made witnesses (to) witness, then weighed the silver on balances. (*Verses 9-10*)

Silver transaction: In Bible times precious metals were exchanged for land when one did not have food or animals to pay. Only wealthy people used gold. In today's economy Jeremiah paid about \$200.

4. I took the sealed deed of purchase (by) commandments and statutes and (the) opened; I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch in the presence of Hanamel and the witnesses who signed the deed, in the presence of the Jews sitting in the court of the guard. (*Verses 11-12*)

Two copies: The sealed copy was stored in a secure place. Jeremiah could access the open copy.

5. I commanded Baruch: Thus says Yahweh Sabaoth (of hosts), take these deeds of purchase, sealed and opened, and put them in a clay vessel that they will endure many days; for thus says Yahweh Sabaoth, God of Israel, houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land. (*Verses 13-15*)

Restoration: Baruch was Jeremiah's loyal scribe (chapter 45). By preserving both deeds for the future, Jeremiah shows the witnesses and Jews with him that after Yahweh's severe discipline, their God will fully restore to them the land He gave them.

Yahweh illustrates His restoration from exile by Jeremiah purchasing a field

B. Yahweh is angry at the Israelites for defiling His Temple and sacrificing their children to Molech, breaking His heart. (*Verses 30, 34-35*)

1. [Yahweh declared] because the sons of Israel and Judah are only doing evil in My eyes from their youth ... provoking Me to anger by the work of their hands ... (*Verse 30*)

Anger of Yahweh: Yahweh begins to tell His people why they have stirred His burning hot anger.

2. ... they set up their abominations in the house called by My Name to defile it. (*Verse 34*)

Defiled My House: Their kings had set up idols in the holy place of His Temple (2 Kings 21:1-12) to defile it.

3. Then they built high places for Baal in the valley of Hinnom to make their children pass through (the fire, 2 Kings 23:10) to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it enter My heart, that they do this abomination. (*Verse 35*)

Abomination to Yahweh's heart: They committed the abomination of burning their children to the 'god' of the Phoenicians (whose name means king). Yahweh knew this would happen, but this act was contrary to His great love for the people He created and called to be holy (Leviticus 11:44-45).

Application: We must all be moved to respond to God's great love for us by joyfully loving Him with everything we have (Psalm 5:11-12; 1 Peter 1:8-9).

II. The people left over from Yahweh's wrath are given a heart to fear Him and restored to a Covenant relationship with Him; when they were restored they shouted for joy because sorrowful sowing lead to joyful harvesting. (*Jeremiah 32:36-34 & Psalm 126(:1-6)*)

A. Yahweh says that the people coming after His wrath will be given one heart to fear Him; and, He will renew His Covenant with them, restoring them fully. (*Jeremiah 32:36-34*)

1. Now therefore, thus says Yahweh, God of Israel, which all of you are saying has been given to the king of Babylon by sword, famine and disease (*Verse 36*)

Deadly triad: This is another one of the fifteen times this deadly triad is mentioned in Jeremiah!

2. Behold! I (am) gathering from all the countries where I banished them in My anger, fury and great wrath; and I bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety; they are My people and I will be their God. (*Verses 37-38*)

Restoration of Covenant: After His anger is satisfied by a generation (seventy years) in captivity, Yahweh will restore His people into an expansion of His land Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17:8).

3. I give to them one heart and one way to fear Me all the days for their good and for their children. (*Verse 39*)

Relationship gift: This expanded Covenant makes God's people a community with one heart of reverential faith in Yahweh who are dedicated to walk His path. In the church the good is a harvest of righteousness after people are trained by God's discipline (Hebrews 12:5-11).

4. I have made (cut) with them an everlasting Covenant (in) which I will not turn away from following them to do good to them; and I will put (give) the fear of Me in their hearts (that) they (will) not turn from Me. (*Verse 40*)

Everlasting: Yahweh is giving His people the gift of reverential fear so they will not turn from Him as He follows after them in His goodness and love (Psalm 23). In the previous chapter, Yahweh spoke through Jeremiah about His New Covenant in which He will write His words of instruction on the heart of His people (31:31-37; Hebrews 8:6-13; 10:15-17) so they will know their sins have been forgiven IN Christ, the Messiah.

5. I rejoice over them to do them good; and I plant them in this land in faithfulness with all My heart and all My soul; for thus says Yahweh: as I brought upon this people all this great evil, so I will bring on them all the good which I (am) speaking to them. (*Verses 41-42*)

Future good: After Yahweh severely disciplined (punished) His people for all their abominations, He speaks of doing good for them while rejoicing over the good He is doing for them (Zephaniah 3:14-17).

6. Fields have been bought in this land (of) which you (are) saying: it (is) desolation, without man (*adam*) or beast, it has been given to Chaldeans (Babylonians). (*Verse 43*)

Despair over desolation: The first wave of exiles remember the desolation of their land by Babylon. They do not know Jeremiah has already bought land near Jerusalem in anticipation of the future restoration of the land to the Jews.

7. Fields will be bought for silver and deeds signed (cut), sealed and witnessed in the land of Benjamin and places around Jerusalem; and, in the cities of Judah, the hills, the valleys and the south; because I will cause their return (from) captivity declares Yahweh. (*Verse 44*)

Word of restoration: Yahweh speaks to His captive people through Jeremiah who bought a field with silver, that all the exiles will return from captivity and buy land as Jeremiah did. When Yahweh speaks, it will be done.

Yahweh illustrates His restoration from exile by Jeremiah purchasing a field

Application: We must always seek to hear from God by reading His Word every day with our heart open and greatly desiring to realize and repent of our sin, be convinced of Jesus' righteousness, and working for and with God so no one would perish (John 16:7-14): 'send a revival, start the work in me!'

- B. When Yahweh brought His people back they shouted for joy; He heard their cry for restoration, then they knew sorrowful sowing would result in joyful harvesting. (*Psalms 126:1-6*)

1. When Yahweh returned the captives of Zion / we were as dreamers. (*Verse 1*)

Restoration: As the people who were held captive by Babylon returned to Mt. Zion in Jerusalem they realized their Covenant God Yahweh restored them. It was so amazing they felt they were dreaming.

2. Then our mouth was filled with laughter / and our tongue with a ringing cry (of joy). (*Verses 2a-b*)

Shout for joy: For the community of Israel to be brought back to their land resulted in loud laughter and shouts of joy heard throughout the land.

3. Then they, (those) in the nations, said / Yahweh made great (things) to be done in them // Yahweh made great (things) to be done in us / we are joyful. (*Verses 2c-3*)

Great things: The fulfillment of these great things done by God is that IN Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit we can do the great things God planned for us when He re-created us IN Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-10).

4. Return our captivity Yahweh / as the streams in the south. (*Verse 4*)

Rejoicing: Restoration results in great joy from being set free from the penalty of sin: 'Restore to me again the joy of your salvation,' (Psalm 51:17).

5. Those sowing in tears / with a ringing cry (of joy) they will reap // he surely going out and weeping / bearing precious seed / will surely come in with a ringing cry (of joy) bearing his (harvest) sheaves. (*Verses 5-6*)

Joy follows sorrow: If we share the love of Jesus with people, planting Gospel 'seeds' with tears so people know Jesus for forgiveness and righteousness restored in Him, we can expect a harvest of souls.

Application: We must ask Jesus every day that we will meet someone with whom we can sow Gospel 'seeds' about what Jesus did for them, so the 'seeds' will produce fruit for a joyful harvest (Matthew 9:36-38)

Those Yahweh restores from captivity will harvest joy

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