

The Prayer of Pretense - Johanan
Jeremiah 42:1-7; 19-22; 43:1-7

Ex 18:21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

To this point we have looked at:

- Rehoboam – The King who listened to bad **counsel**.
- Asa – The King who **almost** finished well.
- Jehoshaphat – The King who kept making terrible **alliances**.
- Ahaziah/Athalia – the **wimp** King and his **conniving** mother.
- Joash – The King who tried to borrow **Character** and **Conviction**
- Amaziah: The King of **Lost Opportunity**. Uzziah: The King of **Pride** and Arrogance
- Hezekiah: A really good king who let down his **guard**.
- Manasseh: The king called the **most** evil yet still **redeemable**.
- Josiah – A King totally **dedicated** to God's will.

History:

There were four more Kings and one governor listed in 2 Chronicles chapter 36.

- 36.1-4 - Jehoahaz was 23 years old and only lasted 3 months.
- 36.4, 5-8 Eliakim was another son of Josiah and Neco made him king instead of Jehoahaz. He also changed his name to Jehoiakim. He began to reign at 25 years old and reigned 11 years in Jerusalem.
- 36.9-10 Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakim's young son Jehoiachin King in his place. He was 18 years old when he started to reign. God only allowed him 100 days on the throne before Nebuchadnezzar called him to come to Babylon specifically for the evil he did. Sowing wild oats in your youth is not something God's overlooks.
- 36.11-21 Zedekiah was another brother of Josiah that was placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar. He was 21 when he took over and swore an allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar which he broke. He reigned 11 years all the while rejecting and mocking the messengers and prophets God sent to them. He was the king on the throne when Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed, most of the people were killed, all of the valuables we carried away and the final deportations occurred. Zedekiah watched his own son

killed and then Nebuchadnezzar put his eyes out (Jer 39.6ff). The he was carried away to Babylon himself.

- Jeremiah 40.5 - King Nebuchadnezzar made Gedaliah the Governor of Judah but a distant relative of the kingly line named Ismael came and killed him (Jer. 41.2).

Situation: Our study today is about the poor remnant of Jews that were left behind that came to Jeremiah seeking prayer and wisdom from God.

Look at this passage in Jeremiah 42 Jeremiah 42:1-7; 19-22; 43:1-7

1) A _____

2) _____

a) Look at the false _____ and _____ here.

i) Verse 2 – Tell us what to do and which way to go

ii) Verse 4 - Jeremiah I will pray for you

iii) Verse 5 –6 we will do exactly what the Lord tells us.

b) We do that a lot. We pray ourselves and we ask others to pray for us pretending that whatever the Lord says we are going to obey it. We just need to add a prayer for good measure.

i) *Luke 20:47 (NASB)"Beware of the scribes, ... who for appearance's sake offer long prayers.*

3) _____ – We plan our lives and presume that God is going to go along with our plans.

a) We are so used to doing things our way and getting what we want we can't imagine God not giving us what we want when we want it.

b) Are you ever guilty of that? It is prescriptive praying.

c) Look at the reaction of Azariah and Johanan

i) Read beginning at chapter 42 verse 15 –22- Chapter 43:1-7

ii) They flat out rejected the will of the Lord. It is like okay God I told you what I want and you didn't give it to me so I'm out of here.

4) Consequences. It isn't really prayer at all but asking God to let

_____ and for him to do our will and not his. Remember that Prayer is not about getting done in heaven what I want; it is about God getting done in my life what He wants.

a) I frustrate the plan of God.

- b) I fool myself – I am the biggest fool.
- c) I take others with me when I presumptuously pray! They even made Jeremiah go to Egypt.

Here are some conditions for maintaining contact with the Lord through prayer.

- 1) God answers the prayer of the _____ - You must be rightly related to God. These guys didn't think they could pray so they went for the Prophet.
 - a) John 15:7 - *"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you can ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you."*
 - b) Every promise is based on a _____. In other words, "...if you have a honest relationship with Me." How do you remain in Christ?
 - c) The starting point is to have an honest relationship to God. How? Through the word of God.
 - d) Three questions on how to evaluate if you have an honest relationship to God.
 - i) Do I refuse to admit things done wrong in the past? The Bible says that's called unconfessed sin. *Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:2; Proverbs 28:13*
 - (1) So what can you do? Repent!
 - (2) What is confession? _____ with God.
 - ii) Do I ignore any of God's principles?
 - iii) Do I really want God's plan for my life?
 - (1) *1 John 5:14*
 - (2) Be careful here! God is not concerned with whether you wear the blue or the tan sweater today. Augustine said: "Love God and do what you _____."
- 2) God answers the prayers of the _____.
 - a) *Matthew 6:14-15 ...¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
 - b) More than any other characteristic in the Bible except maybe faith, the number one thing related to prayer is _____.
 - c) One of the primary reasons why people never see answers to prayer is because they allow _____ to spring up in their lives.
 - i) *Hebrews 12:15¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*

- ii) Anyone knows that one of the easiest places to have resentment build up is in families.
 - (1) *1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*
 - (2) _____ in the home blocks answers to prayer.
- 3) God answers the prayers of the _____. You must be willing to share the results. We are channels not cisterns. - Proverbs 21:13 *"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."*
- 4) God answers the prayer of _____. You must expect God to answer. There's only one kind of prayer that God answers: the prayer of _____.
 - a) In Matthew 9:29 a blind begged Jesus for healing and Jesus ask him if he believed he could do it. He said yes I believe. *"According to your faith, it will be done unto you."* What are you expecting God to do in your life?
 - b) Hebrews 11:6 says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."*
 - c) Faith believes God can do it and also believes _____.
 - d) So we need to have a right relationship to God. There can be no unforgiveness. We must be willing to share what we receive. And we must expect that God will answer.
- 5) God answers the prayer of _____.
 - a) What does that mean? We have to pray in Jesus' name.
 - b) *John 14:13-14 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*
 - c) John 16:24 He says the same thing. *"You've not asked anything in My name. Ask and you will receive and your joy will be complete."*
 - d) God favors his son.