



Call to Me

“Call to Me, and I will answer you,
and show you great and mighty things,
which you do not know.”

Jeremiah 33:3

Jeremiah 33:3 is a verse many churches teach children during their younger years. For any age, it is an appropriate verse to commit to memory because it is a reminder of God’s willingness to hear the prayers of His people.

Jeremiah is known as the “weeping prophet” because he lived through and was deeply affected by the most tragic days in the history of Judah. He was a man who suffered a great deal. He did not want to be a prophet in the first place, but God drafted him to that responsibility. Nobody believed his message (37:2). He was mocked and ridiculed for his sermons, charged with treason when he declared God’s word to the people; he was publicly humiliated by being put in stocks (similar to the pillory that was used in the Wild West of the 1800s); and he was imprisoned in a miserable dungeon.

In fact, it was while in prison that he heard God speak these words of our memory verse. Don't you think Jeremiah was probably tempted to doubt God at this point in his life? I am sure he must have already been praying—calling out to God. Wouldn't you if you were unjustly thrown into a stinking prison simply for doing what God told you to do?

This promise was made not just to Jeremiah but to all the people of God. At the time that it was given, Judah was under attack by the powerful and barbaric King Nebuchadnezzar and his vast Babylonian army. The destruction of Jerusalem was imminent. Even the most optimistic Jew had probably given up any hope for victory. Yet in that desperate situation, God makes this incredible invitation (“Call to Me”) and attaches a huge promise to it (“I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know”).

Faith is taking God at His word and acting on it. It takes faith to call on God and anticipate great and mighty things from Him when the enemies are knocking down your door. A key to benefiting from this verse, I believe, is the last phrase, “which you do not know.” Often, we limit our desires (and therefore our prayers to God) to those things which we do know. We ask Him for what *we think* is best. But God is determined to give to His children that which *really is* best. When we pray, we must always remember that His thoughts and ways are far above our own (see Isa. 55:8–9). The Jews of Jeremiah's day would have considered it a great and mighty thing if God had immediately and miraculously destroyed the Babylonian army and spared the destruction of Jerusalem. But God had things far better—much greater and mightier—in mind for them, things which they did not know.

Read the rest of Jeremiah chapter 33 to see what the “great and mighty things” are which God promises to give to those who call on Him. What you will find is the promise of forgiveness and renewed joy and gladness, all of which is because of Jesus Christ. Though His earthly name is not mentioned, His life and ministry are described in verses 14–18. He will save His people completely and eternally. No matter how devastating the Babylonian attack may be, God has great and mighty things—things which we do not yet fully comprehend—in store for everyone who, with faith in Jesus Christ, call out to Him.



A PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
grant us faith to call to You
no matter what our circumstances.
Help us to believe that You will show us
great and mighty things in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

