

Jeremiah: It's the Last Hour
The Grass Always Looks Greener
Jeremiah 42-43
March 11, 2018

The grass is greener in OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

1. Decide to follow GOD'S GUIDANCE when it comes. Jeremiah 42:1-6

“Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the Lord your God for us, for all this remnant—because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us— 3 that the Lord your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do.”

“May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to all the word with which the Lord your God sends you to us. 6 Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the Lord our God.”

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2. Rest in the PROMISES OF GOD when you get them. Jeremiah 42:7-22

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea for mercy before him: 10 If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you. 11 Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand. 12 I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land.

19 The Lord has said to you, O remnant of Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt.’ Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day 20 that you have gone astray at the cost of your lives.

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3. Choose REVELATION OVER REASON in spite of the crowd. Jeremiah 43:1-7

“You are telling a lie. The Lord our God did not send you to say, ‘Do not go to Egypt to live there,’ 3 but Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may kill us or take us into exile in Babylon.”

43:1-3 When our desires are contrary to God's word, our tendency to deny God's word finds its origin in the garden of Eden. The serpent first created doubt about God's words (Gen 3:1). Then it

denied God's word outright (Gen 3:4) and finally made sin and rebellion appear to be attractive (Gen 3:5). (v.4)

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4. Magnify the **CONSEQUENCES** before they come. **Jeremiah 43:8-13**

'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will set his throne above these stones that I have hidden, and he will spread his royal canopy over them. 11 He shall come and strike the land of Egypt, giving over to the pestilence those who are doomed to the pestilence, to captivity those who are doomed to captivity, and to the sword those who are doomed to the sword.

2 Timothy 3:16 — **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, If the Bible is the Word of God, I cannot afford to ignore it!

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Past - **Romans 8:1, 28** — **1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. — **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Present - **2 Corinthians 4:8-9** — **8** We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
Philippians 4:13 — **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Future - **1 John 3:2** — **2** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Let's talk about the green grass...

1. What kind of people came to petition Jeremiah and what does that tell you about him (42:1)?
2. What was the people's perception of their current situation and what did they ask Jeremiah to do for them (42:2-3)?
3. What was the commitment that the people made to Jeremiah (42:5-6)?
4. Why do you think the LORD waited for 10 days before He gave an answer to Jeremiah's prayer (42:7)?
5. What was the response that Jeremiah gave to the remnant (42:9-20)?
6. Why would the people have thought that going to Egypt was the best thing for them to do? Why do we think that the grass is greener somewhere else?
7. What was the people's explanation for what Jeremiah had told them (43:1-3)?
8. Do you think that Jeremiah went willingly or unwillingly to Egypt? If he wasn't forced to go with the people, why would he go (43:6)?
9. What was the point of hiding the large stones in the mortar in the pavement that was at the

entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes (43:9)?

10. What should we do when we start thinking that the grass is greener somewhere else?