

**Life's Ultimate Questions:
Is Anything Too Difficult for God?
Jeremiah 32:16-27**

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Text Introduction: Again, this morning, our text comes from the Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah. We have used Jeremiah's prophecy in these last weeks to help us with some questions that all of us have. We have, as a result, called this series of messages "Life's Ultimate Questions." Today, we ask the question: "Is anything too difficult for God?" It just so happens to come from my very favorite story of the book of Jeremiah, and maybe even the whole Old Testament. As a matter of fact, God used this passage mightily in my life in to confirm my calling to be your pastor eight years ago.

Our text today gives us an example of one who wrestled with trying to understand God's will but also gives us a glimpse into the truth that nothing is too difficult for God. In summary, here is Jeremiah's story as it relates to Jeremiah 32. Jeremiah was a prophet of God. Jeremiah, speaking on behalf of God, prophesied that a day was coming when the Babylonians would invade Judah. Jeremiah further prophesied that another day would come when a remnant would be restored to Israel. As is often the case for the messengers of God, Jeremiah's message was not well received and, as revealed in 32:2, Jeremiah is imprisoned for preaching this message of doom and gloom even though the Babylonian army is beginning the besiege of Jerusalem. At that same time, God speaks to Jeremiah to reveal that he is going to have an offer to buy land, and he is to buy that land. The narrative seems to slow down as we see in verses 8-15 Jeremiah make the purchase of land. Don't miss the picture—Jeremiah is being asked to buy land that the enemy is about to claim. I believe this is God's way of asking Jeremiah whether Jeremiah really believes the promise of return.

We are told that Jeremiah buys the land, and then we get to eavesdrop on a very special conversation (prayer) that Jeremiah has with God.

Text: ¹⁶ "After I had given the purchase agreement to Baruch, son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD: ¹⁷ Oh, Lord GOD! You Yourself made the heavens and earth by Your great power and with Your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for You! ¹⁸ You show faithful love to thousands but lay the fathers' sins on their sons' laps after them, great and mighty God whose name is Yahweh of Hosts, ¹⁹ the One great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are on all the ways of the sons of men in order to give to each person according to his ways and the result of his deeds. ²⁰ You performed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt and do so to this very day both in Israel and among mankind. You made a name for Yourself, as is the case today. ²¹ You brought Your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror. ²² You gave them this land You swore to give to their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. ²³ They entered and possessed it, but they did not obey Your voice or live according to Your instructions. They failed to perform all You commanded them to do, and so You have brought all this disaster on them. ²⁴ Look! Siege ramps have come against the city to capture it, and the city, as a result of the sword, famine, and plague, has been handed over to the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What You have spoken has happened. Look, You can see it! ²⁵ Yet You, Lord GOD, have said to me: Buy the field with silver and call in witnesses—even though the city has been handed over to the Chaldeans!"

²⁶ Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁷ “Look, I am Yahweh, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for Me?”

Introduction: When I was a kid a popular weekend show was the Superstars. It was an ongoing competition of athletes from various sports who competed against one another in select sports. The final competition would always be the obstacle course. This series of jumps over walls, and hurdles, and water sometimes humbled the greatest of athletes. It was exciting at least in part because it made these great athletes seem human. On certain occasions the competitors would have such trouble with a particular obstacle that they would simply just go around that particular element of the race. They took their time penalty and simply went around the obstacle. Obstacles are like that. They trip us. They make us fall. At times, we even look at the obstacle and simply say “There’s no use.” It’s impossible. We even transfer the idea of impossibility to God.

Our text asks a very simple question, first from the prayer of Jeremiah, and then is answered by the rhetorical question from God.

Is anything too difficult for God?

I want you to think about two things real quick.

- We know what we are supposed to say!

There is not a person in this room that does not know that the right answer to this question is “NO, nothing is too difficult for God.” However, what we say does not always translate in a faith that trusts God for all things. Instead of trust, we panic. Instead of trust God, we take over.

Jeremiah knew the right thing to say, but doubt was crouching at the door of faith.

- We don’t really know until we have faced the impossible!

Jeremiah had to be placed in an impossible situation to fully understand God could do all things. Most of the time, we need to face the impossible for our faith to grow strong.

Andre Crouch made the song *Through it All* popular a few decades ago. The chorus is probably familiar: Through it all, through it all, I’ve learn to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God.

The last verse has these great lyrics:

I thank God for the mountains,
and I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank Him for the storms He brought me through.

**For if I'd never had a problem,
I wouldn't know God could solve them,
I'd never know what faith in God could do**

So What Do We Do When We Face the Impossible?

- Remind yourself of who God is.
- Revisit often what God has already done.
- Refocus continually on God's power instead of your problems.

This is what Jeremiah did. Go back to God. Focus on the power of God, not your problems or your present circumstances. Focus on your problems from God's perspective not your own perspective. Your doubt and the Devil say, "Look at the size of your problem," but faith and your Heavenly Father say, "Look at the size of your God."

Be a David facing the giant Goliath and say to your giant, "I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty!"

How Do We Do This?

What's the key? We do what Jeremiah did. We talk to God about our problem and our doubts. We worship and read His Word to be reminded of who is and what He has done in history. We gather with others to share stories of His power in the most impossible of circumstances.

We do what Isaiah did. Isaiah 6 tells the faith building story of Isaiah entering the Temple focused on his problems. King Uzziah had died. This brought fear to all and, no doubt, fear to Isaiah. But, according to Isaiah 6, he saw the LORD, high and lifted up on the throne. Worship changed his perspective.

Back in the mid-1800s, A.B. Simpson was a struggling, middle-aged pastor, who was ready to quit. His health was bad, he was depressed, and his pastoral work was not going well. He was at the end of his rope, as we would say. But one day, he "just so happened" to hear the simple words of an old song: "Nothing is too hard for Jesus." God used those simple words to touch Simpson's heart. He remembered that he could not do what needed to be done, but God in His Almighty power could. He went away for a time with the Lord, who strengthened him with His power, and poured out His blessing on his ministry. God would use A.B. Simpson to begin one of the great missionary movements in history, which ended up becoming the "Christian and Missionary Alliance," one of the great missionary denominations today.

Some of you are here today ready to quit. "It's impossible," you say. Perhaps it is physical, emotional, or spiritual. Let this truth sink deep into your soul. Ready? "Nothing is too difficult for God!"