



**"Going All In"**  
**Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford**  
**Jeremiah 32:1-13**  
**September 8, 2019**  
**10:00 AM Service**

Ever been in a "been there, done that" situation?

I'm not talking about a return trip somewhere or a situation in life ... "been there, done that".

I'm talking more about those situations where it didn't work out the first time or two and here you are faced with it again: "been there, done that, not again!"

Trying to mend a relationship

Particular job that has gone south before

Going on a diet/exercising/making a new health plan

Jeremiah was faced with that. We know that God many times had Jeremiah do symbolic things through which God spoke. Last week we learned how Jeremiah went to the potter's house to watch the potter and through that, God spoke to Jeremiah a message.

In today's passage, God is telling Jeremiah to do something that God has had him do before. In this particular instance, God is telling Jeremiah to do something that he's done before: buy something that ends up being destroyed. God had Jeremiah buy a linen loincloth/belt and wear it and then go to hide in the crevice of some rocks and after awhile to go back and find it. It was of course destroyed and unusable. Later, God has Jeremiah buy a piece of pottery and then break it. Both times, the symbolism of the lost item spoke to the judgment God has on the people of Israel. Now God wants Jeremiah to do it again. But this one is a much bigger investment.

### **Jeremiah 32:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>2</sup>The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.

<sup>3</sup>Now Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him there, saying, "Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, 'This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it

<sup>6</sup>Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>7</sup>Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.'

<sup>8</sup>“Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.’

“I knew that this was the word of the LORD; <sup>9</sup> so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. <sup>10</sup> I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. <sup>11</sup> I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy— <sup>12</sup> and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

<sup>13</sup>“In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: <sup>14</sup>‘This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. <sup>15</sup> For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.’

Can you imagine Hanamel, Jeremiah’s cousin? Babylon is breathing down the neck of Jerusalem. People are worried; they see the writing on the wall: things are going to get bad. There is no future here and Hanamel wants to unload some property. Now in those days, in order to keep wealth distributed as evenly as possible for all people/clans/tribes, there was the God-given practice for property to be first offered to the nearest living relative, thus keeping property in the family. So, Jeremiah had the right (and duty) to buy the field Hanamel wanted to unload. Can you imagine Hanamel’s delight? He gets his cousin to put good money into bad property – bad property because it looks as if all the property will become the property of Babylon. It’s like the loincloth and piece of pottery all over again - but with a bigger investment.

But this time the symbolic message is different. This time God speaks to Jeremiah while he makes the purchase and says that it will not be lost. There is a future there. That future is God’s plans. This is an investment with a great return!

### **Making a commitment for the future**

This really speaks to us today – especially when it comes to church.

Babylon (secular-driven/anti-religious culture) is breathing down our necks. We worry about the future of the church. We wonder who will be here worshipping Jesus Christ in 50 years. The modern prophets have been speaking about the demise of the church for years and people don’t want to hear it. Or folks do hear it and get while the getting is good. (those kinds of actions actually fulfill the prophesy)

Or maybe it’s a more personal experience. Maybe you’ve tried a small-group experience or to study the Bible in the past and it didn’t work out. “I felt uncomfortable” “It’s not for me” “I’m not doing that again” and here we are encouraging you to get involved; join a study, find a group. Either way – Jeremiah’s lesson speaks to us. God has a future with the church. And we can make the investment for that future and be a part of it!

After all, isn't it God's future that we most hope in and pray for: "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth"

### **Making it public**

The other thing about what Jeremiah does is that he makes it all public. He makes an investment that is witnessed by the community. Everyone must have been wagging their tongues about Jeremiah. What a fool! And there's long-lasting evidence because the deed has been properly preserved. Future generations will also be able to see what a fool Jeremiah was – throwing away good money.

Or will it be that Jeremiah will be the one that is called faithful and trusting?

See, there is power in making a public profession.

It keeps it important in our own eyes. A public profession is like the deeds in clay jars.

It creates a witness for others to see.

For instance – today we made a commitment about the use of the Bible as the young ones in our midst received theirs.

### **We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.**

It builds momentum. A public witness is a natural invitation to others to join. There's strength in doing faith together...a strength that the people of Israel had lost in Jeremiah's days. They were all going their own ways and things really fell apart.

So, I ask you: will you be a modern Jeremiah? Will you go all in – that this faith is about your life and your life is about living this faith? Will you invest in God's future through your commitment to Jesus Christ the Lord?

If so, I invite you to remember and re-commit to your baptism covenant. Hear the questions again – and dare to go all in:

- Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of your sin?
- Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?
- Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**Let Us Pray.**