

Introduction - The Historical Context (before the Scripture reading)

Jeremiah 39 – A MAJOR Biblical event: the _____ of _____

Jeremiah 40 - A group of Jewish rebels rise up against the Babylonian governor in Jerusalem and they _____ him.

-Johanan figures that all the remaining Israelites will get blamed for this _____, and everyone in Jerusalem is in danger again.

I. Should We Stay or Should We Go Now? – Jeremiah 42-43

God says, “I will provide for you in _____. But, if you go to _____, then you will find trouble!”

Jeremiah 43:7 “So, they entered Egypt in _____ to the Lord.”

This is story when obeying God is actually really difficult. Why?

1) The stakes here are really high and to stay is a very _____ situation. The people are very _____ and _____.

2) They have to _____ for God’s answer. Verse 7 says that it takes _____ before Jeremiah comes back with an answer from God.

3) When God finally gives them guidance, it comes as the _____ answer, not the _____ answer.

Johanan takes the path that seems _____, and, he is wrong. He _____ God and it becomes a costly mistake.

II. How Can We Do Better than Johanan?

“Take up your cross and follow me!”

-Christians have to follow Jesus to places that we don’t always _____ to _____.

-Sometimes we will not _____ what God is doing, but we still have to _____ Him. All of our prayers should have an element of _____ in them.

God sees the future and every possible _____ in ways that we cannot possibly know. God knew in this story of Johanan that the safer looking option was actually not going to be safer. (see Jer. 44:30)

-Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things...”

We are mistaken if we think that following our hearts will always lead us to where _____ us to be.

Sometimes obeying God means making the less _____ decision.

Probably one of the hardest areas of our lives where we have to trust and obey God comes in our _____...

Conclusion:

God can surprise us. It is not because He is _____, but it is because He _____ more than we do.

Questions for Further Reflection or Discussion:

- 1) Why was it so hard for Johanan to obey God in this story?
- 2) What is an example in your life when it was really hard to obey God?
- 3) What is a specific lesson from this story that will make it easier for you to obey God in the future?