**“WHATEVER HE TELLS US TO DO…”**

**Jeremiah 42:1-22**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the Sermon did you find to be the most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. Whom do you know who has been too trusting and suffered because he or she refused to believe ill of another person?
2. What traditional superstitions were you taught as you were growing up?

**Jeremiah 42:1-22 (NLT2)**   
1  Then all the guerrilla leaders, including Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah son of Hoshaiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, approached 2  Jeremiah the prophet. They said, “Please pray to the LORD your God for us. As you can see, we are only a tiny remnant compared to what we were before. 3  Pray that the LORD your God will show us what to do and where to go.” 4  “All right,” Jeremiah replied. “I will pray to the LORD your God, as you have asked, and I will tell you everything he says. I will hide nothing from you.” 5  Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD your God be a faithful witness against us if we refuse to obey whatever he tells us to do! 6  Whether we like it or not, we will obey the LORD our God to whom we are sending you with our plea. For if we obey him, everything will turn out well for us.” 7  Ten days later the LORD gave his reply to Jeremiah.   
8  So he called for Johanan son of Kareah and the other guerrilla leaders, and for all the people, from the least to the greatest. 9  He said to them, “You sent me to the LORD, the God of Israel, with your request, and this is his reply: 10  ‘Stay here in this land. If you do, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you. For I am sorry about all the punishment I have had to bring upon you.   
11  Do not fear the king of Babylon anymore,’ says the LORD. ‘For I am with you and will save you and rescue you from his power. 12  I will be merciful to you by making him kind, so he will let you stay here in your land.’ 13  “But if you refuse to obey the LORD your God, and if you say, ‘We will not stay here; 14  instead, we will go to Egypt where we will be free from war, the call to arms, and hunger,’ 15  then hear the LORD’s message to the remnant of Judah. This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you are determined to go to Egypt and live there,   
16  the very war and famine you fear will catch up to you, and you will die there.   
17  That is the fate awaiting every one of you who insists on going to live in Egypt. Yes, you will die from war, famine, and disease. None of you will escape the disaster I will bring upon you there.’ 18  “This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘Just as my anger and fury have been poured out on the people of Jerusalem, so they will be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. You will be an object of damnation, horror, cursing, and mockery. And you will never see your homeland again.’ 19  “Listen, you remnant of Judah. The LORD has told you: ‘Do not go to Egypt!’ Don’t forget this warning I have given you today. 20  For you were not being honest when you sent me to pray to the LORD your God for you. You said, ‘Just tell us what the LORD our God says, and we will do it!’ 21  And today I have told you exactly what he said, but you will not obey the LORD your God any better now than you have in the past. 22  So you can be sure that you will die from war, famine, and disease in Egypt, where you insist on going.”

***EXPLORE***

* + - 1. What request did Johanan and the people with him make of the prophet Jeremiah? ([42:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+42%3A1-3))
      2. What promises did Jeremiah and the people make to one another? ([42:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+42%3A4-6))

* + - 1. What positive commands and reassuring words did Jeremiah bring from God? ([42:7-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+42%3A7-12))
      2. What warning did God have for the people in anticipation of their intended disobedience? ([42:13-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+42%3A13-18))
      3. Of what fatal mistake did Jeremiah accuse the remnant of Judah? ([42:19-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+42%3A19-22))

***APPLY***

* + 1. How did reliance on their own wisdom and preconceptions about God’s answer get Johanan and his fellow leaders into trouble?
    2. What led the people to ignore God and His prophet, Jeremiah? What leads us to ignore God?
    3. Why did Jeremiah call the disobedience of the people who insisted on fleeing to Egypt a fatal mistake?
    4. Why do people swear oaths that they don’t really intend to keep?
    5. Why are some people willing to attribute their misfortune to God’s indifference or powerlessness rather than to their own sins?

**Additional Thoughts:**