

1. Our LifeLines verse for October 16 will be John 1:12.
2. LifeLines will meet through Monday, November 13!

LifeLines October 9, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to Me & I will answer you, & will tell you great & hidden things that you have not known.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

God called Jeremiah to be a prophet during a spiritually dark time in Judah. One of the reasons God sent Jeremiah as a prophet to the people was so he would relay God's messages to the people &, in turn, draw the people to Himself. Israel was always doing things that displeased God, so Jeremiah was kept busy warning them to repent of their evil ways & return to God. Because they were rebellious, they preferred listening to false prophets. Jeremiah spent most of his life warning the people of severe judgment to come if they didn't repent of their evil ways & return to God. He was faithful, even though he endured mocking, loneliness, imprisonment & rejection. The difficulties he encountered, as described in the books of Jeremiah & Lamentations, prompted scholars to refer to him as "the weeping prophet."

Jeremiah was in prison (or in the court of the guards) when God spoke these words to him. He was in prison for giving King Zedekiah a message from God which the king did *not* like or plan to heed.

In the following verses, God explained His game plan for dealing with the Chaldeans & Babylonians who were coming to break into the city. God planned to restore the fortunes of Judah & Israel, rebuild them & cleanse them from the guilt of their sin against God. (You may read these verses, 6-13, for *extra credit*. If you continue with verses 14-16, you'll find a familiar prophecy!)

God spoke directly to Jeremiah in our verse. He encouraged Jeremiah to call out to Him, be in constant prayer & continue seeking Him, no matter what. God gave encouragement to Jeremiah, & He does the same for us - *when we listen*. God continues to give believers *hope*!

Corrie ten Boom called Jeremiah 33:3 "God's private telephone number"! Now, wouldn't you like to have Him on speed dial? You Do! Call Him any time. He never slumbers or sleeps (Psalm 121:4).

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

AMP

Call to Me & I will answer you, & tell you (& even show you) great & mighty things (things which have been confined & hidden), which you do not know & understand & cannot distinguish.

CEB (Common English Bible)

Call to Me & I will answer & reveal to you wondrous secrets that you haven't known.

CEV

Ask Me, & I will tell you things that you don't know & can't find out.

CJB

Call out to Me, & I will answer you – I will tell you great things, hidden things of which you are unaware.

CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

Call to Me & I will answer you & tell you great & incomprehensible things you do not know.

MSG

Call to Me & I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous & wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.

NLT

Ask Me & I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.

TLB

Ask Me & I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what is going to happen here.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

*Call to Me...*What an invitation! This is a strong call to prayer! God is waiting to hear from us, to enter conversation with us. He's listening! Is this a troublesome time for you? Are you on your knees about something? God knows how tough it is for us not to know what's about to happen in our life. This invitation is an expression of His loving kindness & desire to be known by His creation, His children.

*& I will answer you...*What a promise! He's willing to share secret things He had locked away until the time we were ready to listen & learn. God has a plan for us &, little by little, He reveals that plan to us as we mature spiritually. It isn't something we can force. We must *wait on the Lord*.

*& will tell you great & hidden things...*These great & hidden things aren't hidden as we would hide Easter eggs for a game. This is the Hebrew word, *berusoth*, which means to hide something so it's almost inaccessible; locked away so only the right key could access its truth. These are the things only God knows, things we don't have the power or ability to understand until God chooses to open the door & reveal them to us.

In Jeremiah's time, these great & hidden things probably included the blessings of the coming Messiah & the gospel of Christ. In our times, such truths might refer to learning how to walk before God in peace, innocence & purity as we learn to trust Him in all circumstances.

*that you have not known...*God knows when the time is right to share, explain, enlighten, & that timing can be different for each of us. Think of times Jesus told the disciples that the time was not yet right for them to know certain things.

We rarely see all God is doing behind the scenes in our lives. He expects us to trust Him & wait expectantly for things we don't yet comprehend. Sometimes those things are the priceless, awesome blessings that accompany a life dedicated to God.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Exodus 23:20-22, I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way & to bring you to the place that I have prepared for you. Be attentive to him & listen to his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in him. But if you listen attentively to his voice & do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies & a foe to your foes.

Deuteronomy 4:7, For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to Him?

Deuteronomy 4:29, From there you will seek the Lord your God, & you will find Him if you search after Him with all your heart & soul.

Deuteronomy 29:29, The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the revealed things belong to us & our children forever, to observe all the words of this law.

2 Chronicles 7:14, If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray, seek My face, & turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, & will forgive their sin & heal their land.

1 Kings 19:12, And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; & after the fire a sound of sheer silence (some versions refer to this as the “still small voice” of God).

Psalms 25:14, The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, & He makes His covenant known to them.

Psalms 84:11b, No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Psalms 91:14-16, Those who love Me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know My name. When they call to Me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them & honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, & show them My salvation.

Psalms 121:4, He who keeps Israel will never slumber nor sleep.

Psalms 145:18, The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

Isaiah 28:23, Listen, & hear My voice; Pay attention, & hear My speech.

Isaiah 45:3, I will give you the treasures of darkness & riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

Isaiah 48:6b-7, From this time forward I make you hear new things, hidden things you have not known. They are created now, not long ago; before today, you have never heard of them, so that you could not say, “I already knew them.”

Isaiah 55:3a, Incline your ear, & come to Me; listen so that you may live.

Isaiah 55:6, Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

Isaiah 65:24, Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Jeremiah 29:12, Then when you call upon Me & come & pray to Me, I will hear you. When you search for Me, you will find Me; if you seek Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 31:34, No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord;

Joel 2:32a, Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved;

Amos 3:7, Surely the Lord God does nothing, without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets;

Micah 4:12, But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand His plan, that He has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

Micah 7:15, As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, show us marvelous things.

Luke 11:9-10, “So I say to you, Ask, & it will be given you; search, & you will find; knock & the door will be opened for you.”

Luke 18:34, But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what He said was hidden from them, & they did not grasp what was said.

1 Corinthians 1:2-3, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord & ours;

1 Corinthians 2:7-11, But we speak God’s wisdom, secret & hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Colossians 1:26-27, The mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages & generations but has now been revealed to His saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

SUMMARY

God encouraged Jeremiah to continue praying to Him, calling on Him, so He could continue declaring the blessings He had in store for Israel. God issued an invitation to Jeremiah, & He issues an invitation to us today. God encourages His us to come to Him, call to Him, get to know Him, rely on Him, develop a personal relationship with Him. God wants an active, interactive relationship with His people. He loves it when His people call out to Him & longs to reveal many of His mysteries to us. In the same way, we yearn to know the many unsearchable things about Him. Are we willing to invest time listening for His voice?

How *do* we hear His voice? Our conscience is one way. His Word is another. Through prayer, quiet time & meditation we hear Him. Sometimes we hear Him through other people, nature, a song or hymn. God wants us to call to Him & hear Him, but we may need to reduce the clutter in our lives so we *can* hear Him.

It is amazing that the Most High God would make Himself so accessible to us. He doesn’t even mind if we come with the same requests or concerns over & over. He invites us to inquire into meaning & insight into the unknown. He says, “I’m going to tell you things you wouldn’t know apart from My telling you!” God *will* keep secrets from those who do not Him, but He has promised to reveal great & hidden things to us.

CONCLUSION

Jeremiah 33:3 is just what we need to point us to all that is possible with God! Think of the remarkable, “impossible” things God has done: parted the Red Sea, provided manna & quail, brought water from a rock, stopped the sun for Joshua, toppled the walls of Jericho, impregnated a virgin, healed multitudes of people, fed multitudes of people, placed a coin in a fish’s mouth to pay taxes, resurrected His Son...He knows how to do the impossible. Even when destruction is at our door, God is still with us!

What has He done in *your life*? Are you willing to share? We should boast in our God, because *He* doesn’t have to boast about anything. (Although God did humble Job by reminding him of mighty things He does on a regular basis! See Job Chapters 38-41 for some great reading & *lots of extra credit!*)

God said, “Call to *Me...*” Are we responding to His invitation? Why would we go through our day doing normal “stuff” when we’ve been invited to commune with the Most High God? He doesn’t want us looking elsewhere for answers. This is what so many people do! They look for answers from friends, the news, social media, & horoscopes, when they should be approaching the King of the Universe, the King of kings & Lord of lords. He is the only Divine Source of all knowledge, & He’s given us His private number!

Let Jeremiah 33:3 be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Take a moment or two & write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:
