

God's Calling Requirements Part 28

Lessons from the Life of Baruch

“1 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch: 3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest. 4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land. 5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.” (Jeremiah 45:1-5 KJV)

Baruch, was a friend and faithful attendant of Jeremiah. He was commissioned to write what Jeremiah was dictating to him. He witnessed and was part and parcel of the turmoil and the successive painful events that Jeremiah was passing through. Although he might get discouraged for a time, but Baruch stayed with Jeremiah and share with him the afflictions. Baruch continued to be with Jeremiah even when the people forced them to go down to Egypt in rebellion to the Lord's commands and in their refusal to stay in the land and be under the subjection of the Babylonians.

Baruch served God well as many an God's servants, but seemed that he was daunted and discouraged in facing all the trials and rejection that he and Jeremiah were facing, that is why the message of God came to him, ***“2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch: 3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.” (Jeremiah 45:2-3 KJV)*** Baruch possibly was not happy with his life and with what God was allowing him to pass through. He had grief rather than joy, feeling of loss rather than gain, and constant threats rather than satisfaction or rest. He started to complain against God and expressing his discontentment toward God. *The life and the example of Baruch can be a copy of the life that you are living and what you are passing through as you are responding to God's call and in serving Him.*

God heard Baruch his complaint and his murmuring against him, ***“Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest”***, and therefore Jeremiah was commissioned by the Lord to tell Baruch the following: ***“4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land. 5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not.” (Jeremiah 45:4-5 KJV)*** Why Baruch was discouraged and he was speaking like that? It seemed that Baruch was looking for material things, prosperity and life without troubles. Through this message God was telling Baruch not to look to gain material things in this world, and not to seek good things for himself in this life. God frankly told him, ***seek them not***. As you serve God, seek not wealth, seek not fame and recognition, seek not power and seek not perishable things. Furthermore God told him the following: ***“for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.” (Jeremiah 45:5 KJV)*** Possibly Baruch was sad or angry because God brought the Babylonian to come to destroy Judah and Jerusalem, that is here expounded to him that He will punish the wicked of His people and the rest of men who don't acknowledge

God. But He promised Baruch that wherever He will take him or to any place He will bring him that his salvation, his eternal life will be secured in God's hand. Also that is what God is doing through wars, natural calamities and pandemics to punish the wicked; therefore we should not be discouraged or got sad when these are happening, but the more to put our trust on him. Jesus says to us today as we continue to trust on him and follow him and give up the material things in this world, ***“27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28 KJV)*** Our eternal life is secure as long as we trust Him, follow Him, and give up our love for material things.

To grasp what Baruch had passed through let us now go and read what Baruch witnessed and shared from suffering that Jeremiah was passing through:

1. Baruch witnessed Jeremiah buying a field of a land during the siege that Jeremiah even did not use or benefited from that field that he bought: “1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. 2 For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house. 3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; 4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes; 5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper. 6 And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it. 8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. 9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. 10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. 11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: 12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison. 13 And I charged Baruch before them, saying, 14 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. 15 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land. 16 Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying, 17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: 18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name, 19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all

the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings: 20 Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and among other men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day; 21 And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror; 22 And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey; 23 And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them: 24 Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it. 25 And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans. 26 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying, 27 Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me? 28 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it: 29 And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger. 30 For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. 31 For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, 32 Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 33 And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. 34 But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. 35 And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. 36 And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; 37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: 38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: 39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. 41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. 42 For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them. 43 And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans. 44 Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the

mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 32:1-44) Jeremiah was in prison because of what he preached, and while he was there was commissioned by God to buy that particular field of land in spite of the siege of the Babylonian around Jerusalem. That is what we need to do, not to buy land or houses if we wish or we like, but only when God is leading us to do so and clearly as he did with Jeremiah to buy the land from his uncle. God spoke to him first, and then his uncle came to him requesting him to buy the land. Now the people do the opposite, they will buy the land or the house then they will ask God to approve it to them. Jeremiah bought the land and spent money in buying that in obedient to the command of God and not because he wished to buy. After he obeyed, prayed to the Lord, “And though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign LORD, say to me, ‘Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.” (Jeremiah 32:25 KJV) Notice here that Jeremiah first obeyed God by buying the land then he discussed the matter with God. Jeremiah was questioning the Lord after he obeyed, that why he should spend money and buy a land that he may not use anymore, or even he may not see. But the Lord explained and expounded to Jeremiah His purpose. The purpose of God behind that is to give a message of hope in fulfilling His promise to His people who would repent, throw away their idols and then come back to God to be restored. God was telling through what He asked Jeremiah to do is that there is hope and there is restoration in God if people would repent, that those who are in exiles will come back, and fields again will be bought in this land, “43 And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans. 44 Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 32:43-44) Jeremiah paid the money but he did not use the land for his personal purpose or for his needs. The purpose and the needs of Jeremiah were directed solely to serve God’s purpose and to do His will. Let us take the good example of Jeremiah and work with God to bring the hope of God back into our lives and in the life of our families and in the life of the people that we are reaching out.

Jeremiah had saved money and was able to buy the field from his uncle because he has money with him. The money that he saved was used to do God’s purpose. Therefore, in the same way we need to save money and put aside, so that we can continue to serve God and do what He asks us to do for His name sake.

Many who are called to serve God would expect that they will receive financial relief and treasure from God. That is not true, and that is not the purpose of God in calling you. Therefore, the Lord in this message is correcting you.

There are times that you have money and treasure but you are not enjoying them and you are not using them to do what gives you relief and rest. Instead you are called to use them for God’s purpose and for God’s glory. That is the truth and that is the correct things that you are called to do. Now if we will compare the attitude and action of Jeremiah with what God sent to Baruch in **Jeremiah 45**, we will understand why God send his message to Baruch.

Going back to the story of the land that Jeremiah bought, Baruch was along with Jeremiah during the whole process of that transaction and he knew and he understood what Jeremiah did. He also grasped that serving God is not a financial gain, or gaining profits or making business.

"3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." (1 Timothy 6:3-5 KJV) It might even come to Baruch's mind that what will be his profit in standing firm with Jeremiah; he might even see that he was lost with Jeremiah. After he saw clearly that Jeremiah gain nothing of material things, he might be even got discouraged and thought that Jeremiah will lead him to be lost. Many when they got involve in ministry and see others who serve God wholeheartedly suffer for Christ's sake might get discouraged and question God. They may even do not accept that to happen to themselves.

What Jeremiah did and might Baruch amazed with is not the strange thing, but the usual thing that God would expect to see in us. Peter came across the same fact in the New Testament when he said to Jesus, *"Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee."* (Luke 18:28 KJV) Peter said that they lost all, but Jesus assured His disciple and we today when He responded to Peter statement, *"29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, 30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this life present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."* (Luke 18:29-30 KJV) We thank you Jesus for your Word and your promise.

2. Baruch witnessed how the people ridiculed the message of God through Jeremiah and how he needed to re-write again what Jeremiah dictated him to write because the king burned the scroll that he wrote: "1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. 3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin. 4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book. 5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD: 6 Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD's house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities. 7 It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people. 8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD's house. 9 And it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people that came from the cities of Judah unto Jerusalem. 10 Then read Baruch in the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the higher court, at the entry of the new gate of the LORD's house, in the ears of all the people. 11 When Michaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, had heard out of the book all the words of the LORD, 12 Then he went down into the king's house, into the scribe's chamber: and, lo, all the princes sat there, even Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and Elnathan the son of Achbor, and

Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes. 13 Then Michaiah declared unto them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the book in the ears of the people. 14 Therefore all the princes sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, unto Baruch, saying, Take in thine hand the roll wherein thou hast read in the ears of the people, and come. So Baruch the son of Neriah took the roll in his hand, and came unto them. 15 And they said unto him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears. So Baruch read it in their ears. 16 Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were afraid both one and other, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words. 17 And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth? 18 Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book. 19 Then said the princes unto Baruch, Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye be. 20 And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king. 21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king. 22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him. 23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. 24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words. 25 Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them. 26 But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD hid them. 27 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, 28 Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. 29 And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast? 30 Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost. 31 And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not. 32 Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words." (Jeremiah 36:1-32 KJV)

Both of them, Jeremiah and Baruch, were under the threat of the sentence of the king to be arrested, but God hid them and preserved them. God will hide you and preserve you as long as you are willing to serve him.

You can see clearly from this passage that Jeremiah and Baruch were in great threat but they persevered in doing the work of God and did their best to bring the message of God to the people that they need to hear, and even to the king of Judah. Baruch served God very well and

assisted well the mission of Jeremiah; Jeremiah could not go because he was in jail, but Baruch was willing to go instead of Jeremiah to the temple to deliver the message of God to the people. He took the risk for his life, as some of you took the risk in your service to God to let the message reach the people. Baruch twice needed to write the scroll, and he took the risk to go and read it to the people. Sure Baruch got discouraged and hurt when what he wrote was burned and he needed to rewrite again. Don't be discouraged or daunted when people had worked to destroy your ministry and what you had done good to the Lord.

You might get hurt when what you had prepared and worked for God, the people had destroyed. You might be even disturbed and get discouraged with such events. But you need to come back to your senses and understand that God wants you to persevere and to be diligent and to the end in doing your assignments. God had saved your life and God shall reward you when you persevere in serving Him. He is seeing all the pains and all the struggles that you are passing through.

Don't be discouraged or daunted when people had worked to destroy your ministry and what you had done good to the Lord, but rather be willing to start once again with the Lord to restore what the devil and the people destroyed of God's work that you have achieved. What you will do next will be more glorious than what was destroyed by the enemy, as the second writing of Baruch for Jeremiah's message added to it many like words.

3. *Baruch was falsely accused that he was asking Jeremiah to instruct the people not to go to Egypt:* "1 Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near, 2 And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:) 3 That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do. 4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard you; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, that whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare it unto you; I will keep nothing back from you. 5 Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us. 6 Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God. 7 And it came to pass after ten days, that the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah. 8 Then called he Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces which were with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest, 9 And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him; 10 If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull you down, and I will plant you, and not pluck you up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you. 11 Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand. 12 And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land. 13 But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God, 14 Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell: 15 And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into

*Egypt, and go to sojourn there; 16 Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die. 17 So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them. 18 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more. 19 The LORD hath said concerning you, O ye remnant of Judah; Go ye not into Egypt: know certainly that I have admonished you this day. 20 For ye dissembled in your hearts, when ye sent me unto the LORD your God, saying, Pray for us unto the LORD our God; and according unto all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare unto us, and we will do it. 21 And now I have this day declared it to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any thing for the which he hath sent me unto you. 22 Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go and to sojourn. 1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words, 2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there: 3 But **Baruch** the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon. 4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah. 5 But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, that were returned from all nations, whither they had been driven, to dwell in the land of Judah; 6 Even men, and women, and children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and **Baruch** the son of Neriah. 7 So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: thus came they even to Tahpanhes." (Jeremiah 42-43:7 KJV) Here, as we have read, the people accused Baruch falsely that he is pushing Jeremiah to prophesy against them. Possibly they did that because they wanted to separate between Jeremiah and Baruch; they spoke such thinking that such may cause Jeremiah and Baruch to get fight one with another and later that may caused them to separate. People will always come and they want to hear certain things they like to hear. When they will not hear what they expect then they will react and start to tell false accusation. "3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:3-4 KJV) At this time many people are not willing to hear the truth. Not only that but they will rebel and fight back and falsely accused you and others when they are faced to do God's will, as what had happened with the people around Jeremiah and Baruch. *Do not be discouraged if people speak bad about you or insult you, rather rejoice and be glad.* "11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:11-12 KJV) "22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of*

man's sake. 23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.” (Luke 6:22-23)

Finally Jeremiah and Baruch were forced to go along the people to Egypt. Therefore and for all the above circumstances that Baruch was exposed to, might be the reasons to make him discouraged and caused him to start to seek things for himself, **“And seekest thou great things for thyself?” (Jeremiah 45:5 KJV)** Baruch might started looking how to be in a safe place, how to find a comfort zone where he can hide and rest, or how he can use what he has to treat himself well. He might be starting to plan for personal gain and wishes, looking for new plans especially now at the end he was forced with Jeremiah to go into Egypt. The trials and the persecutions that he was passing through had traumatizing effects on his life that might even affect his commitment to serve God and to remain true to faith, and that is why God sent him the message in **Jeremiah 45**, to restore him and to assure him about his salvation; and that is why God is sending this message today to you to restore you back to serve God wholeheartedly and to assure you about your salvation as long as you are serving God.

My dear and beloved: “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.” (Philippians 1:29 KJV) You need to know that God's calling is not an entertainment trip, but is willingness to stand firm with God and willingness to take the risk and paying the cost for that calling. The meaning of Baruch's name is "blessed." It is a blessing to suffer and endure for Christ's sake. Do not be discouraged because of all the trials that you are passing through, and for the opposition that you receive from the enemy; God surely will bless you and will reward you for all that pain.

God wants you to understand that pain and suffering does not mean God is not pleased with you or with your ministry. Do not believe the lies of the Devil. You are beloved by God and you are highly esteemed by Him, as well as your ministry is highly appreciated, and God wants you to continue to do that until He will come to take us to Heaven.

God is calling you through this message to come out from the pain of your wound, and wanted you to be comforted, telling you that God is there beside you and He will reward you for all your pain, your sacrifices and your labor in serving Him.

The Lord shall reward you bountifully and soon. **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)** God shall wipe all the tears of your eyes and He will sooth all your wounds, your pains and your aches, **“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)**

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life.

Lord I thank you for your encouraging Word to me. Lord I understood well your Word and I accept the way you call me to serve you.

Lord forgives me my sin_____.

Let us confess our sins and renounce them.

Lord heal my wounds and sooth my pain. I am willing Lord to persevere even to the end. Preserve me, protect me, give me strength and provide all my needs until you come to take us with you to Heaven.

Lord helps me to forget all the painful memories, the insults and the painful previous events that I passed through in my life. Lord refill me with the Holy Spirit, and give me the Spiritual gifts that I need in my life to go on and serve you. Lord helps me in my life and makes me the good example for others to go on and serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had committed their life to serve you. Lord protects them and provides all their needs. Lord refill them with the Holy Spirit and use them to evangelize and reach the lost and in making new disciples. Lord blesses their lives and uses their testimony to attract others to know Jesus and to follow Him in their lives.

Lord we pray for our church to grow. Lord helps us to evangelize reaching new people with the Gospel of Jesus and lead us to plant more Bible studies. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit and gives us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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