

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #12 – A CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO COMFORT OR CROSS

A CHRISTIAN'S CALL – Praying to God may not always lead to increased popularity, sales, or good health. On the contrary, our lesson deals with a Christian's call to a cross. We begin with prayer:

THE PRAYER – Dear Father, we know that when we submit to Your will, everything in our lives, comes under Your supervision and control. Of course, dear Lord, these things have always been right there. It is just that when we submit to Your authority we are realizing, and recognizing, Your great power. Knowing that You care, we are able to call upon You with confidence...even when we are in the presence of a cross. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

ILLUSTRATION -Is it possible for the Lord to give us a cross so it can become a blessing? Listen to the illustration and find out.

SATAN'S SUMMONS –Satan would try to summon us from any such confidence in God's loving hand. He prefers us to be undermined by believing that a REAL follower of God, will walk only upon a smooth path. That way, when troubles come, we can get angry at the Lord.

THOUGHT: Does being our heavenly Father mean that God will give His followers a life without any kind of cross. The answers to those questions will determine the way we approach Him; what we can expect of Him. We turn to the Word.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 – Please look at these texts and answer the questions which follow:

TEXT	QUESTION	ANSWER
Exodus 24: 7	What did the people do first/second. Who was in control/Whose will should be done?	_____
Psalm 50:15	What are we to do? When are we to do that? What can we expect then? Should we do anything in gratitude?	_____
Proverbs 3:5	What are we to do? What should we avoid?	_____
Proverbs 3:6	What should we do/When should we do it? What will happen then? Who is in control?	_____

FIRST APPLICATION: From these passages, and many like them, there can be little question that the Lord should, remain in control. Beyond the promises He has made to us in His Word, He is not obligated to give us anything. Indeed, sometimes, He gives us a cross for a greater good. Take a look at these passages, identify the person(s) praying and answer how God responded to their requests:

TEXT	QUESTION	ANSWER
Deut. 3: 23-27	Who prayed? What was God's reply?	_____
Matthew 26:42	Who prayed? For what? What did God do? Why would God do that?	_____
John 11:1-3	Who prayed? For what?	_____
John 11:23, 41-43	What did Jesus do?	_____
John 11:15, 42	Why did that happen?	_____
2 Cor. 12: 8-9	Who prayed? For what? What happened?	_____

THOUGHT : God's Fatherly love, and His Divine perspective, sometimes leads Him to override our narrow and near sighted perspective and do what is right. That may even mean the Lord that some unpleasant things may come our way.

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL - Look at these passages and see what the Lord promises:

TEXT	QUESTION	ANSWER
Matthew 10:38	What does the Lord say His followers should do?	_____
Luke 14: 27	What does discipleship demand?	_____

Look at 2 Corinthians 11 and see what kind of crosses the Apostle Paul had to carry during his life?

- v. 24 - _____
- v. 25 - _____
- v. 26 - _____
- v. 26 - _____
- v. 27 - _____

THOUGHT AND ILLUSTRATION - The life-witness of Paul shows us that God's ways are not our ways; His thoughts, not ours. That is why, as children we continue to trust that He will do what is right.

If it seems He is ignoring us; or our prayers appear to be unanswered, we need to continue to _____ Him. He is sovereign and He will work things out according to His plan and to our best interests. (Ephesians 1:11). That is the confidence that Lutheran Hour Ministries has as we bring Christ to the nations and the nations to the church.

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord, grant us a sincere desire to serve You and humankind. Give us the wisdom and trust to stop doubting You and stop thinking negatively. Grant us Your Spirit to start living by faith, praying earnestly and humbly, and looking expectantly to You for the best. In Jesus' Name. Amen.