

Sermon Outline

Research, write, and preach a narrative sermon based on Jeremiah buying a field in Anathoth.

Bible Passage:

Jeremiah purchases a field. Jeremiah 32:7-44

Sermon Thesis:

Trust God's counsel. Even when it seems worse than foolish.

Key Thoughts:

- *Nebuchadnezzar's army had already captured Anathoth, so God must have had a pretty good reason to tell Jeremiah to buy his cousin's field.*
- *God promises destruction and God promises prosperity. Is God always right?*
- *How is God asking you to do a "show and tell" that might help your congregation understand His will?*
- *What were King Zedekiah's counselors saying as Jeremiah purchased the field?*

Research:

- Wikipedia information on Anathoth.
- Concordance research on Anathoth. What other stories come from this city?
- Why was the signed deed stored in a pottery jar?
- Did Jeremiah's purchase change anything?
- What does Ellen White say about this experience?

Imagine:

- Explaining Jeremiah's property purchase to your teenage children.
- What the purchase meant to King Zedekiah.
- Where the jar with the deed was hidden. (*Maybe with the ark of the covenant?*)
- A drone photo, taken as the deed was signed, showing the city, the courtyard prison, and the Babylonian siege ramps looming above everything.
- Why God speaks in parables.
- Hearing God "good promises" after Jeremiah prayed.

Purple Passages to try:

- "It was a no-good field, one we always hoped someone else would own."
- "When the Babylonian General heard about Jeremiah's purchase he laughed and had a sign made. *'This property is owned by a very stupid man.'*"
- "Jeremiah's lifted his head to pray, his eyes flashing as if reflecting Divine fire."

STOP Signs that provide good spots for inserting local stories:

- Jeremiah reaching out to sign the deed. *"I remember signing the paper for my first car..."*

- Babylonian soldiers shouting obscenities from their siege ramps. *"Laughter sounds the loudest when you're lying on your face, like the time when..."*
- When Jeremiah and God list the sins of Jerusalem's people. *"I've put together a short list of the sins committed in our country this week..."*
- Verse 44. *"My Mama says, the climate will cool, the forests will grow lush, and the people will be kind..."*