

Jeremiah 42:3-6

that the LORD your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do." Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your words, and it shall be, that whatever the LORD answers you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you." So they said to Jeremiah, "Let the LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which the LORD your God sends us by you. Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God."

I remember when I first read these verses I thought how cool of a thing to pray.

† *Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God*

I thought that this is something that we should all be praying, and I still think we should. Because we always pray for the Lord's will to be done, as we add, as long as we are happy with what His will is.

But then as I read on, I saw the heart of the people.

† *Jeremiah 42:19-22 The LORD has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt!' Know certainly that I have admonished you this day. For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and according to all that the LORD your God says, so declare to us and we will do it.' And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything which He has sent you by me. Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell."*

The children of Israel were praying for the Lord's will to be done, but they wanted the Lord's will to be for them to go to Egypt. When God said don't go, they didn't care and went anyway and as you read on in the next chapters you find out the consequences of their sin.

So I would encourage you to pray *Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God* and not just pray it, but also believe and obey God from your heart. If you can't believe and obey it, then don't pray it concerning this prayer or any other prayer.

God knows your heart so don't try to fool Him like the children of Israel tried to.

† **Psalm 119:133** *Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.*