

**Title:** Turn "IT" Around

**Text:** 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

**Target:** A new beginning starts at the place of a broken ending.

- I. **A Significant Problem:** "Jabez was more honorable than his brothers; and his mother called his name **Jabez**, saying, "because I bore him in pain". (Vs. 9)
- A. **Scandal in His Name:** "more honorable"
  - B. **Sound of His Name:** Jabez (Hebrew: Ya bets-In Pain)
  - C. **Sorrow in His Name:** "bore him in pain"
    - 1. **Present Insight:** difficult delivery!
    - 2. **Prophetic Implications:** difficult destiny!

**Discussion Question:** Jabez was given a name that many of us would not want. It is a name that breeds sorrow and worry. Yet, one commentator on these verses would remind us that "pain" doesn't have to be the last word in or about our lives. Have there been times that you have had to overcome a bad name or reputation? Perhaps a painful situation that you felt was insurmountable? How did The LORD reveal himself and sustain or bless you in the midst of your circumstances?

- II. **A Sincere Prayer:** "Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying..." (10a)
- A. **Do a Work in Me:** "Oh that you would **bless** me"
    - 1. **Favor from God:** Acceptance from God.
    - 2. **Fellowship with God:** Agreement with God.
  - B. **Do a Work through Me:** "**enlarge** my border"
    - 1. **Erase my Limitations:** Impossibilities
    - 2. **Exchange my Reservations:** Inadequacies
    - 3. **Exceed my Expectations:** Incapability's
  - C. **Do a Work with Me:** "that your **hand** might be with me,"
    - 1. **Your Presence with me is Vital:** To Guide Me (1 Peter 5:6)
    - 2. **Your Power with me is Victorious:** To Glorify You (Isaiah 41:10)
  - D. **Do a Work Around Me:** "and that you would **keep** me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!" (Vs. 10b)
    - 1. **Regarding my Tendencies:** In light of my past history. (Proverbs 3:5)
    - 2. **Revealing my Trajectories:** In light of my presumptuous heart. (Psalm 19:13)

**Discussion Question:** Jabez asked God for spiritual favor. Jabez didn't limit God with his requests. He asked for a blessing, an enlarged territory, for God's presence and His protection. Jabez asked for God to do work that only He could do. While we don't know much about Jabez beyond these two verses, we can deduce that he placed God at the center of his prayer request. The heart of the prayer is to be blessed so you can bless others. To enlarge our border to expand the Kingdom. To keep us safe so that we can be effective and persistent in our work for The LORD. Have you ever made a similar request of God?

- III. **A Supernatural Promise:** "And God **granted** what he asked." (Vs. 10c)
- A. **When in Agreement to God's Word:** Character of God.

1. **John 15:7:** *"if you abide in me, my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*
  2. **John 14:14:** *"if you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."*
- B. When in Alignment to God's Will:** Cause of God.
1. **James 4:3:** *"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions"*
  2. **1 Peter 3:12:** *"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

**Discussion Question:** Jabez was asking for a breakthrough. Again, we don't know much about him, but we know he was an honorable man. We know that God granted his request. Many of us are praying for breakthroughs in our lives or in the lives of loved ones. Let's boldly ask these things of The LORD, not for our sake, but for God's glory. Instead of praying for our blessings, safety, and territorial enlargement, let's pray that people would bless the name of God, that His Kingdom would increase, and that our protection would be for His glory not for our sake. If you haven't already, share your breakthrough requests and praises with the group.

**Takeaway:** Sometimes God doesn't replace a name; He just chooses to redeem it! (1 Chronicles 2:55)