

January 14th, 2024

The Welfare of the City

Jeremiah 29:1-9

1) We opened the message talking about playing a small part in the greatest story ever told v. playing the lead role in our own story. Share from your own life about ways you've seen the futility of making things about you v. the joy of playing your part in something where Jesus is center stage.

2) We talked about 2 Identities, 2 Strategies, and 2 Practices as a baseline for playing our part in the story of redemption right where we are. The 2 identities we pulled from Jeremiah 29 are that we are exiles and we are sent.

- In what ways is it difficult for you to internalize being an “exile on earth”? Or more specifically, in what ways do you tend to over-value and over-identify with the world? How would internalizing this as part of your identity change how you think about and engage with the world?
- Looking at your current station in life, in light of where you live, work and play, how would the notion of being sent help you engage more differently or more intentionally?

3) The Strategies we pulled from the passage for bearing fruit for the Kingdom were Locality and Longevity.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 together with these two strategies in

view. Walk through the passage, thinking through these questions:

- If our ministry is a ministry of reconciliation, what does that indicate about what most people are experiencing? What is the context of us ministering to people?
- What it is an ambassador in a formal sense? Discuss the range of their responsibilities, the work they do and how they go about it?
- What do these insights indicate about how we enter into normal life and Ambassadors of Christ?

4) The 2 Practices which we identified from Jeremiah 29 are the practice of Blessing and Praying.

- The Lord's word through Jeremiah was to "seek the welfare" of our community. James characterized that as intelligently and curiously investigating how we can give ourselves to blessing the people and places among whom we live. Discuss together the areas of lostness and brokenness you see around us and where we may have opportunities to do this.
- We were challenged to think about walking our neighborhoods and communities to pray blessing over people. As a lead up to that, have each person name someone in their

life who doesn't know Jesus, and let's take time in our groups to pray blessing over them together.