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Pastor John Welborn

For The City
We Are to Live In Our City
Jeremiah 29:5-6

Christians tend to have one of three perspectives about living in large cities:

- **Romanticizing the City**
- **Disdain for the City**
- **Indifference to the City**
- **Love for the City**

“Should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also much cattle?” **Jonah 4:11**

“By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down & wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, & our tormentors, mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’ How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” **Psalms 137:1-4**

“Build houses & live in them; plant gardens & eat their produce. Take wives & have sons & daughters; take wives for your sons, & give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons & daughters; multiply there, & do not decrease.”
Jeremiah 29:5-6

Main Idea: I have been Sent by God to Live in My City, for My City.

I. Getting Established

“Build houses & live in them...” **Jeremiah 29:5a**

II. Cultivating my Area

“...plant gardens & eat their produce.” **Jeremiah 29:5b**

“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, & especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith & is worse than an unbeliever.”

1 Timothy 5:8

III. Grow My Family

“Take wives & have sons & daughters; take wives for your sons, & give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons & daughters; multiply there, & do not decrease.” **Jeremiah 29:6**

“These verses teach the importance of daily family life for the redemption of the post-Christian city. The construction of the house, the planting of the garden & the raising of the family all build the City of God. The most important thing a Christian parent can do in his or her lifetime is to raise a godly family. And nowhere is the godly family more valuable than in the city...The Lord does not just call people to jobs & spouses, he also calls them to cities & churches.”

Philip G. Ryken

God’s sending: If God is urbanizing the world into major cities & His desire is that the Gospel be preached to all people everywhere, then it only makes sense that He is calling most of us who live here to stay here, & others to move here, for His Glory & the good of the city!

Major Question: Where has God sent me for His Glory & the good of those around me?

Three Ways to Get Lemons:

- 1) **Single Fruit** (immediate, very temporary),
- 2) **Potted Plant** (longer lasting, but confined), or
- 3) **Lemon Tree Grove** (long lasting & expansive).

If you want to produce fruit, you must have roots that grow deep and wide! The same is true for living in your city!

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp & put it under a basket, but on a stand, & it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works & give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

You can’t be the light of the world until you have met the LIGHT of the world. Living in the city, for the city requires that you know the God who made the city, and that is only possible through Jesus Christ!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Jeremiah, Lamentations* – F.B. Huey (1993)
- *Jeremiah & Lamentations* – Phillip G. Ryken (2001)
- *Be Decisive* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Commentaries on Jeremiah & Lamentations* – J. Calvin (2010)
- *Jeremiah & Lamentations* – R. Davidson (1983)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson (1994)
- *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – J.C. Laney & R.B. Hughes (2001)
- *Insight for Living: Jeremiah* – Chuck Swindoll
- *Gaining by Losing* – J.D. Greear (2017)
- *Three Wrong Ways to View the City* – Tim Keller (2017)