

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

What does Jeremiah mean when he says to search for God with all your heart?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

In the midst of the struggle, how are you tempted to disregard God?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

According to v. 5-9, what does it look like to put yourself under the yoke of your rulers?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How does God's plans for your future help you to continue?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 61:1-8

Song #156 ~ Rock of Ages

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Job 23:1-17

Song #108 ~ Jesus. Draw Me Ever Nearer

Scripture Reading: Job 24:1-25

Prayer

Sermon ~ Jeremiah 29:1-32

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #233 ~ Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

Pastor Dan Benitez ~ 813-751-4305

www.CalvaryBaptistTampa.com

Text: Jeremiah 29:1-32

Theme: The Lord of Hosts has spoken, listen carefully.

- I) God has called His covenant people to humbly serve their rulers (1-9; 21-32; cf. Rom. 13:1-2, 1 Pet. 2:13-17).
 - A. Both those living in Jerusalem (Jer. 27 & 28) and those who were exiled were told to humbly serve their rulers (1-4).
 1. In chapters 27 and 28, Jeremiah exhorted those living in Jerusalem to humbly serve their rulers. But what about those who were already exiled? Chapter 29 is a series of letters between Jeremiah and the exiles where he exhorts them to humbly serve their rulers (cf. 29:1, 3, 21, 24, 29, 31). These letters were written around the same time as chapters 27 and 28.
 - B. What does it look like to humbly serve your rulers (5-9; 21-32)?
 1. To humbly serve your rulers is the same idea as putting your neck under the yoke (cf. 27:12-14, 28:14).
 2. To humbly serve your rulers is to seek the welfare of the city you live in (7), to pray to the Lord on behalf of the city (7), to live and build houses (5), to raise families (6). To humbly serve your rulers is to be productive people in society.
 3. In contrast, the false prophets encouraged the people to break off the yoke (8-9; 21-32; cf. 28:10).

- II) Even in the darkest hour, God's plans for His covenant people are good (10-20).
 - A. God is faithful to fulfill all His good words for His covenant people (10-14).
 1. God required the land to have a sabbath rest every 7 years (Lev. 25:3-4), but they failed to give the land a sabbath rest. Since they disregarded God's word He expelled them from the land so that the land would get the rest (Lev. 26:34). Although Jeremiah does not explicitly point out the sabbath rest for the land, 2 Chron. 36:20-23 does.
 2. After the land received its rest, God would bring back His people to the land (10).
 3. God does not forget His covenant people (11-14). He has good plans for their future. In the midst of the struggle, it is easy to forget God's good plans. The life of Joseph is a good example of this. He was sold as a slave. Then he was lied about by Potiphar's wife and was cast into prison. Then Pharaoh's cupbearer forgot about him before God finally raised him to second in command over all Egypt. Even though his brothers meant it for evil, God meant it for good (Gen. 50:20). Time would fail me to tell the stories of Moses, Abraham, Job, and David. Although these examples experienced the future blessings, there are many examples that had to wait until their future glorification (cf. Heb. 11:36-37)

Conclusion: On the surface, it appears as though Jeremiah is encouraging the people to search for God with all their heart (13). But repeatedly in the book of Jeremiah, we see that God is the One who gives us a heart to seek Him (24:7; 31:33). It is God who writes His law upon our hearts. It is God who draws us to Himself.