



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
September 16, 2012
gospel in life –
Grace Changes Everything

desert breeze community church

City - Living in a Pagan World

Jeremiah 29:4-14

About the time you begin to get a hold of the Gospel it begins to get a hold of you...like nothing else!

It's 6th Cent BC & God's people have been humiliated in war, torn from the Promise Land & living in exile in the beautiful & brutal city of Babylon. What do you do when dreams are shattered & all hope is gone? How do you live in a culture that is hostile to your beliefs & values?

Wrong Ways to Relate to Our City (Culture):

- Assimilate: The Babylonians were saying...move into to the city and lose your spiritual ID. V6 God refers to this "multiply there, and do not decrease." (Audience but no Message)
- Isolate: The False Prophets were saying...don't move into the city and keep your spiritual ID. Jer.28:3; V8 (Message but no Audience)

Note: Split adaptation (spiritual chameleon) this person is a citizen in both city's (worlds) & attempts to be at home in both.

God's Way to Relate to the City (Culture): vv6-7

- Infiltrate: Move into the city and out of your spiritual ID serve the city. Matt 5:14-16 (Message & Audience)
- Christians are to be radically different and at the same time radically identify. Matt.22:37-39
- Christians are to seek the total flourishing in every dimension of the city they live in. vv7, 11; Jonah4:11

Where Do We Get the Power to Relate to The City

(Culture)? Vv11-13 We are to seek the total flourishing of the city we live in because God seeks ours.

God's plan for our welfare (completeness, soundness)...

- Is in the context of community. "Church" 115xs in NT 92xs local congregation

- Involves redemptive discipline. Heb.12:11
- It starts right where I am. Eph5:20; 1Cor10:31
- Is to give us more of the greatest good: Himself! Heb.11:6; Jer9:23-24

Jesus lost the City that was, so that we could become citizens of the City which is to come, and that makes us salt and light in the City which is. Hebrews 13:12-14



Growing

September 16, 2012

desert breeze community church

- 1) It is often said that Christians today have little impact on the world around them. Is that a correct assessment? Why? What prevents Christians from becoming more engaged in the world around them?

- 2) Read Jeremiah 29:4-14. It is the 6th cent BC & the people of Israel have been taken captive & are in exile in the beautiful and brutal city of Babylon. They must learn to live in an environment of people that have values & beliefs that are vastly different from their own. How is this like & unlike our own culture? What are three wrong ways to relate to our culture?

- 3) What specific directions does God give the exiles for relating to the city of Babylon in verses 4-7? How do you think the exiles felt about this? How is being radically different from the culture and radically identifying with the culture living out Matt.22:37-39? How can Christians seek the total flourishing in every dimension of the city they live in?

- 4) What is the relationship between God's "plans for welfare" of the exiles in verse 11 and the "seek the welfare of the city" in verse 7? What was the purpose of the exile, according to verses 11-14? Why do you think these verses are included in the letter?

- 5) We get the power to seek the flourishing of the city because God seeks ours. Review the last four statements on the sermon notes of how God seeks our welfare. Which of these do you struggle with the most to believe? Make it your prayer along with praying that db grows in seeking the welfare of Phoenix.