



Week #5: The Insider's Guide to Living on the Outside

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ... "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

Jeremiah 29:1,4-7 (ESV)

"Also, do good things for the city I sent you to. Pray to the Lord for the city you are living in, because if there is peace in that city, you will have peace also."

Jeremiah 29:7 (ERV)

You are always an outsider, but:

1. You are called to live _____.

"For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

"For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:8-11 (ESV)

You are always an outsider, but:

2. You are never _____.

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14 (ESV)

You are always an outsider, because:

3. This is not _____.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word “outsider”, what do you think of? Do you think of yourself as an outsider? Why or why not?
2. Jeremiah 29:12 encourages us to seek God with all of our heart. What has your journey of seeking God been like and what have you learned from it?
3. How can you pray for and serve your community in a way that is reflective of Jeremiah 29:7?

Recommended Resources

- *Found By You: Lessons on Finding Hope in Uncertain Times*, by Patricee Fraser McPeak
- *Exiles: The Church in the Shadow of Exile*, by Preston Sprinkle
- *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture*, by Michael Frost
- *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways For a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*, by David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock

(ESV) English Standard Version

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