



Questions for further study ... Nov 12th '17

In our current Sunday morning teaching series, we're looking at an Old Testament character - Jeremiah - and looking at 4 different episodes from his life and what we can learn about the skills we need to develop if we're to follow God in obedience. "Boat pushing out skills" (see Luke 5:5).

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14

In chapters 25-28, Jeremiah describes 70 years of captivity that the exiles were about to face. Living among the Babylonians was not easy for the Israelites because they were separated from their homeland, treated like second-class citizens, and pressured to participate in the idol-worshipping culture. A false prophet named Hananiah sent a message of hope to the exiles (Jer. 28), saying that in just 2 years, the Israelites could go back to their homeland. Jeremiah 29:1-14 is Jeremiah's reply to this false hope.

- i) Make a list of the commands that you see in this passage. Which ones do you think were most difficult for the Israelites to obey? Why is it important that we as Christians get stuck into community life? What does it mean for us to seek God? (v13) How can we be whole-hearted about this?
- ii) Why would the lie mentioned in verse 9 have been so harmful to the exiles? Read 2 Timothy 4:3. Is this still a problem today? How can we guard against this?
- iii) Make a list of the promises that God makes to the exiles. Which ones do you think would have given the exiles the greatest hope?
- iv) How does knowing the context help us apply Jeremiah 29:11 to our lives today?
- v) How will this sermon/study impact the way you pray?