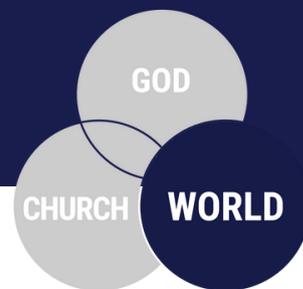


BLESSING

I find ways to make the world around me better.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Jeremiah 29 is a powerful chapter in the Bible. God has Jeremiah speak to the exiles who have been taken captive and brought to Babylon. God tells the exiles to settle down, build houses, marry and have children. And then he encourages them to be a blessing in the place of their captivity. “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Jeremiah 29:7

God continues on and promises restoration for his people after 70 years. But in the meantime, they are to settle down and be a blessing to the city they are in. In the midst of a difficult situation, God calls on his people to be a blessing to the very group who captured them and brought them into exile.

RESULTS OF BLESSING

In Matthew 5, we read Jesus’ sermon on the mount. Take a look at verses 14-16. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

One of the ways we can point people to Jesus is by participating in the rhythm of blessing. When we find ways to make the world around us better, we are not looking for ways to bring credit to ourselves, but instead are looking for ways to bring God glory and also to point others to Jesus.

How does the filter of Matthew 5, impact how we read Jeremiah 29?

What are some ways that we can bring glory to God by being a blessing to others?



PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

PRAY

- Ask God to bless your local community in a way that drives people to Jesus. Ask God to give you wisdom, strength and perseverance for doing whatever it is that will allow you to be a part of that blessing.

LOOK

- Find some of the local organizations in your community that are helping others. Look for organizations that aid people around the world. Look for an organization that sparks a passion in you.

RESPOND

- Carry \$20 on you this week. Set it aside to give to someone. Maybe that person will be a stranger, or maybe that person will be someone you know. Create the setting for that gift by asking God to direct you and guide you to who might need those \$20.