



Sermon Main Idea:

There is temptation in hard times to look for an easier way out or a quick end to difficult circumstances. God shows up in the mundane, asks us to thrive in place and then to seek shalom for our neighbors.

Introduction:

1. What are some reasons people (we) look for an easier way out or quick end to the difficult circumstances we are currently in?
2. How have you seen God show up in the mundane?

SORP:

Scripture | read Jeremiah 29:1-10

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. What strikes you about the selection of Jewish people (listed in verse 2) that the Babylonians chose to carry into exile?
2. Why do you think God told them to increase in number? How might that instruction have played into His plans for their future?
3. How might the people of God felt when they were instructed to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile”?
4. What stands out to you about Jeremiah’s words concerning the prophets and diviners?
5. How do you think that the news of the seventy years until God would fulfill His promise to them might have hit the Jews?
6. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. How do the preceding verses impact how you read this?

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. What does it look like for you to thrive where you are today?
2. What can we do to put ourselves in the posture of seeing God at work in the mundane details of life, rather than looking only for magnificent movement?
3. How can we fight the temptation to look for what we want to hear and, instead, engage with what is going on?
4. How can we be actively seeking the shalom of our homes and community in this season? What about beyond the pandemic?
5. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response