

Sunday Equipping Class: The Gospel in the Ordinary

Blessing – Jeremiah 29:1-7

Where we've been

1. Calling
2. Provision
3. Stewardship
4. Blessing

Blessing, Flourishing, Exile

Jeremiah 29:1-7

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. 2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: 4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 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. 7 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.

1 Peter 2:11-17

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

"God created all things to be in a beautiful, harmonious, interdependent, knitted, webbed relationship to one another. Just as rightly related physical elements form a cosmos or a tapestry, so rightly related human beings form a community. This interwovenness is what the Bible calls shalom, or harmonious peace.... [Shalom] means complete reconciliation, a state of the fullest flourishing in every dimension – physical, emotional, social, and spiritual – because all relationships are right, perfect, and filled with joy."
-Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*, p. 173-174

Work that Blesses the World

Genesis 1:28

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Types of Work

1. Building community "*be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*"
2. Bringing order "*subdue*"
3. Cultivating potential "*have dominion*"
4. Restore brokenness

Making the Connection

"With greater work specialization, it is often difficult to find meaning in work or to take pride in the collective contribution being made by the process, because workers are separated from the final product that is created and the good value it creates for the customer. With greater specialization comes a greater need for managers to intentionally present a comprehensive picture of the goals and mission motivating the organization. Those who start and operate business enterprises also have a responsibility to nurture workplaces that enhance flourishing for all and that seek to keep specialization from robbing people of dignity and meaning in their work."

-Tom Nelson, *The Economics of Neighborly Love*, p. 104

How would you categorize the type of work you do?

1. **Building Community** *“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”*
2. **Bringing Order** *“Subdue”*
3. **Cultivating Potential** *“Have Dominion”*
4. **Restore Brokenness**

If your work is done well, how would it bless the world? *(Consider your customers, co-workers and the wellbeing of their families)*

If your work is done poorly, how would it hurt the world? *(Consider your customers, co-workers and the wellbeing of their families)*

What are the predominant temptations in your field that would lead to bad work?

What would happen if no one did the work that you do?

Making the Connection

In Its Welfare, You Will Find Your Welfare

Dr. Tom Lutz
