

**INTRO**

- What brought you to Toronto?

***When God Speaks*** revisits key passages from Jeremiah, revealing their continued relevance today. We'll explore how God's Word challenges, refines, and ultimately offers hope for us, inviting us to live faithfully amid cultural pressures.

**READ**

Jeremiah 29:1-14

**REFLECT**

Through Jeremiah 29, God comforts the exiles in Babylon. The parallels between the Israelites in Babylon and our lives today are striking. We are reminded that, even in exile, God calls us to seek the welfare of our city, emphasizing the importance of being rooted where God has placed us, and maintaining hope in God's redemptive purpose, even when we face difficulties or uncertainty.

**Seek the Welfare of the City**

Even while in exile and distant from their "home" in Jerusalem, it is clear God arranged for His people to be in Babylon, encouraging them to pursue its peace and prosperity.

*Qu: What brought you to Toronto? How has your perspective on being here changed over time?*

Sometimes, our mindset focuses solely on what the city can offer us, seeking to use it for our own purposes and prosperity. God calls us to view our city in a different light. So:

*Qu: How can we actively pursue the welfare and prosperity of our city, as Jeremiah instructed the exiles to do in Babylon?*

**We Are Exiles**

In the New Testament, God's people are often addressed as exiles, which describes why we don't fully feel at home.

*Qu: How do you balance the tension between feeling like an 'exile' in this world and being called to put down roots where God has placed you?*

**Be Careful What You Listen To**

In Jeremiah's day, there were prophets telling God's exiled people what they wanted to hear, that they would soon be rescued and taken out of Babylon. But God called them out as deceivers and liars. Oftentimes, especially when in difficult circumstances, we are susceptible to hearing what we want to hear:

*Qu: How can we discern between comforting messages that align with God's will and those that merely tell us what we want to hear?*

**Then, you will find Me**

Read Jer 29:11-13 again. How do these verses comfort you, and how do they challenge you?

**Application**

Take some time to reflect on your attitude towards where God has placed you. Are there areas where you need to adjust your perspective?

**PRAY**

- Spend a few minutes praying for the peace and prosperity of our city.
- Ask God to renew His heart for our city within you, and discern what actions can accompany this.