



WEEK 2

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Week 2/ Day 1- Jeremiah 29:11-

Write out the scripture Jeremiah 29:11 below:

What's happening:

I should warn you that this verse doesn't mean what we typically use it for, but hang tight, it will have an even greater meaning.

Here are the deets

The Israelite people were in exile, yet again. This time the Babylonians conquered their land and took them. Jeremiah was a Prophet of the time. In this chapter, he confronts a false prophet named Hananiah, who lied and told the people that God was going to free them from Babylon in 2 years (God doesn't do this)

What we are reading in this chapter is The Prophet Jeremiah, calling out these lies. In the verses leading up to verse 11 He tells the people that God's plan for them is to stay right where they are, that he will deliver them, however not for another 70 years. I am not great at math, but 70 years is a lot more than 2???? I can not imagine what the Israelites were thinking.

But just like we have seen God do last week, he gives the people an *action* to focus and keep busy with. Verse 7 says, "seek the peace and the 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." They were to make Babalon Prosper.

Now let STUDY, Fill in the blanks from Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the _____ that I think _____, says the LORD:

First of all, God has thoughts. God thinks about you. I'm sure you have heard that before. And it is true, but let's look closely at the words here. He thinks TOWARDS you. God not only thinks about you, but his thoughts are towards you.

Read Psalms 139. David remembered that God knows us.

Write out verse 17 below:

God thinks about you so much that it can't be counted

What does "For I know the thoughts that I think towards you," mean to you?

Thoughts of _____ and not of evil,

The Israelites were living in a time where they were experiencing God's judgment upon their nation. Experiencing discipline happened over and over again to the Israelite people. You would think they would learn. It would have been easy for them to start thinking that God was against them. That maybe he intended evil for them. But the prophet Jeremiah was assuring them that God was thinking of them, and his thoughts were of peace and not evil.

Look up John 16:33 write below:

Even though this promise in Jeremiah was intended for the Israelite people, the chosen people in the Old Testament, It is also for us. We need to remember that Because he has overcome the world, we can and will have peace. Because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the events taking place this Easter season), we too are included in this promise. Because Jesus died on the cross and rose again, we get to be included in the Promises of God's people.

As we read promises in the old Testament written for the Israelites, we also get to read them for ourselves. My beautiful friend, God wants peace for you and not evil. If you are experiencing a hard or even evil situation, I hope that you will turn to God and remember that he is for you, not against you.

What does "Thoughts of peace and not of evil," mean to you?

to give you a _____ and a hope:

The Israelites were disobedient people. Over and over again throughout the History of the Old Testament, we read of their disobedience. In most cases, they deserved the exile they were experiencing. But God still wanted them to know that He has a future and a Hope planned for them. It is the devil's deception that wants you to believe that God is not for you. If God wanted a future for the Israelites, then he most certainly has a future for you and me.

Keep in mind that God is purposeful in his plans. Too often, we get frustrated because we don't see or know the future or the plans that he has for us. But he is always working things out for us.

Read Acts 1:7 and write below:

Simple as this, It is not for us to know!

The time that the Israelites had to stay in Babylon and help the city prosper was spent building synagogues throughout the city. Later we would discover that this would be in preparation for what would come to help the spread of the Gospel.

What does “to give you a hope and a future,” mean to you?

When we read this beautiful verse full of hope and prosperity, we should remember that God promised the people a future, but he wasn't removing the current situation. In fact, he was telling them to persevere through the next 70 years. He wasn't removing them from the trial, but he promised them that they would get through this. Sometimes we want the trials of life to end, but maybe we need to change our perspective and start learning to develop perseverance.

Week 2 Day 2 - Matthew 6:33-

Write out the scripture Mathew 6:33 below:

What is happening-

Mathew chapter 6 is smack dab in the middle of Jesus' famous sermon on the mount. In fact, it is his most famous sermon in the Bible and maybe ever. Summed up, it was all about how to live a life that is dedicated and pleasing to God, free from hypocrisy, full of love and grace, full of wisdom and discernment.

There is so much in chapters 5-7 here that give us specific instructions for us. If you have time, go through a highlight a few nuggets for yourself.

Before we study our verse today lets Specifically read Mathew 6: 25-32

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can anyone of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Now to our Verse 33 – Fill in the blanks

But _____ the kingdom of God:

As a rule of thumb when a sentence starts with the word BUT you need to go back and read the passage before. “But” is a conjunction word. Which means that it is joining together the thing before and after the word. This is why it was important to read the passage before.

Below sum up the passage in verses 25-32:

The verse then says, “BUT seek first the kingdom of God.” In total, Jesus is telling us *not to worry about food or clothing or physical needs but seek the Kingdom of God FIRST. Before anything else.*

Our world as a whole is more self-seeking than anything else. Generally, we are more concerned with making sure our needs come first before we can seek the Kingdom of God. What Jesus is saying is that if we would stop being so concerned with getting our needs met and learned to SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM, then He would meet our needs.

Seek means to desire, pursue, or aim. Maybe, just maybe, we need to rearrange our priorities and *desire* the Kingdom of God first. If we did, then what would we need to change?

Jesus reminds us that we don’t have to concern ourselves with meeting our physical needs (verse 26), aren't we worth more than the Birds.

What does verse 27 say about worry??

Jesus didn’t tell them to stop worrying. He told them to replace the worry with a concern for the Kingdom of God.

This choice – to **seek first the Kingdom of God** – is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and become a Christian. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

What does “But seek first the Kingdom of God” mean to you?

And _____ things shall be _____

What Jesus is saying is that if we seek first the Kingdom of God, then all these things will be added to you. What are all these things? Does that mean I can have anything?

NO. This verse is not a magic formula to get what we want...the man we want, the car we want, the job we want. Just because God can, doesn't mean that He should.

When we seek the Kingdom of God with the mindset of getting what we want, we have missed the point entirely. Too many people think that happiness comes from this second half of the verse, but truthfully, it comes in the first part. It is in seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness first that we discover that we have already been given the happiness that we need in Jesus. Everything else is a bonus.

Look up 1 Timothy 6:7

The word "contentment" means satisfaction. When we seek godliness with the satisfaction of being all that we need, then we will have great gain in our lives. When we focus too much on the connection to the blessings, then we can miss out on the Greatest Blessing Himself. And if we do that, then we have missed the point of the entire Gospel.

Jesus died and rose again so that we could have relationship with him, and that through seeking that relationship he would make sure our need were met

What does "and all these things will be added to you" mean to you?

When we truly seek and pursue God, we already receive our heart's desire. We won't need relationships, money and material things. However, because God is gracious, He adds it anyway. Jesus adds all things unto us, but more importantly, He comes into us and fills our hearts

completely with identity, satisfaction and purpose. So it is by seeking Him and His kingdom first, then all these things will come to you!

Week 2/ Day 3- 2 Timothy 1:7

Write 2 Timothy 1:7 below:

What's the deets:

2 Timothy is another letter from the Apostle Paul. This would be his second imprisonment and he would die not too long after this letter. Both 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy were letters to Timothy, his son in the faith. Although this letter was for Timothy, Paul knew that it would be instruction and encouragement for any believer. He gave information about godly leadership and lifestyle.

This was a scary time for Christians. Jesus had long been gone by now and Nero, the Roman leader, didn't like Christians. Because of this, it was not legal to preach and minister the Gospel. So many ministers went into hiding in order to keep a low profile so that they would not be imprisoned like Paul. Paul was trying to encourage Timothy to keep being bold in his faith.

As usual, when you get a chance, read through these two books. 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy to read some dynamic instructions and encouragement. I find it so interesting that something that was written so long ago can still carry as much meaning to me today.

Let's do this:

God has not given us a _____

Keeping in mind that Paul was writing this to Timothy. Timothy was feeling fearful about the circumstances happening in his lifetime. His mentor, who many people saw them together often, was imprisoned yet again. I am sure he was thinking they were coming for him next.

Now, those are real fears and yet Paul tells him, remember friend, God has not given us a spirit of fear. Fear is not an emotion that comes from the God that we serve.

Now I am not unrealistic. We all face fears in our lifetime. As a child, we feared the unknown in the dark. Or even as adults, we fear the unknown. But we have to come to a factual understanding that fear is not from God. It is not a characteristic of God.

I always keep in mind something my momma would tell me, “Feelings are emotions, and emotions are not facts” Too many people nowadays live for their feelings. How they feel about something dictates their involvement or engagement or choice. But this decision making leads to a roller coaster of life, causing us to get overwhelmed and dizzy because our emotions are always changing.

WE NEED TO STOP LIVING BY OUR FEELINGS. And start to REMEMBER THE FACTS! That is what Paul was trying to tell Timothy. REMEMBER that God did not give you a spirit of fear.

Read Deuteronomy 7: 18-19

Over and over again, He tells the Israelites to remember! What did God want them to remember? List a few things here:

If we will remember the things God has done for us, or our family, or the people in the history of the Bible, then maybe we can start to retrain our mind to stop letting our emotions lead us and start REMEMBERING what God has done and that He is faithful!

If we are going to deal with our fears, we must REMEMBER that they are not from God.

What does “God did not give you a spirit of fear” mean to you?

But of _____ and of love and of a _____

The second step of dealing with fear is understanding what God has given you.

1. Power:

When we live for Him, seek His kingdom, then we have all of His power supporting us. Why should we let fear cripple us?

It's so true when you start to live for Jesus, serve at church, prioritize relationship with Him through prayer and His word, then you start to feel powerful. You start to feel His character infusing with your lifestyle. That's it! That is His power inside of you!

2. Power of Love:

His love is so cool. Many people understand power to be a control over others. But Godly powerful love is expressed in how much we can love and serve others. That's what Jesus did
(Read John 13:1-11)

The night before His crucifixion He served and loved on his disciples using the power of love to fight the fear inside of him.

It's like this, when you feel fear rising up inside of you for whatever the reason, find someone to serve. Don't allow yourself to sit idle with your thought of fear. STOP and REMEMBER and then get busy serving others. When we get a changed mindset and learn to put others first, then we get the focus off of our fear and on to meeting the needs of others.

3. Power of a Sound Mind.

This word means a calm, self-controlled mind. It is the opposite of what many people associate with fear, like panic or confusion. God has given you a calm sound mind when you trust in Him.

Read Isaiah 26:3 and wrote below:

And that is exactly what God has given us

- His power when we seek Him and live for Him
- The power of loving others to keep us busy so that fear can not fill us up
- The power of a Sound mind when we keep focused on Him

What does "Power and love and a sound mind" mean to you?

Paul wrote this to Timothy because boldness matters. Without it, we can't fulfill God's purpose for our lives. God's purpose is more than making money, being entertained, and being comfortable; it is for each of us to use the gifts He gives to touch His people and help a needy world.