

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14

4. If you were one of the Jewish exiles carried into Babylon, what do you think you would be feeling? What would be your attitude toward the Babylonians?
5. What are the instructions Jeremiah gives to the exiles? How would it be different than your natural inclination?
6. How do you think you would have responded when this letter was read to you? Would you believe it? Would you do it?
7. What similarities (if any) do you see between the Jewish exiles and Christians living in the U.S. today?
8. Look in the sermon notes at the five lessons we learn from Jeremiah. Explain each. Which of these lessons do you most naturally agree? Which is the most difficult to take? Do you agree with all of them?
9. Many Christians will understand why we would get involved with an openly Christian organization, but not necessarily why we would get involved with a school. What are the reasons for a church to get involved in serving a school like Northeast?
10. If Waite Park serves Northeast Middle School for ten years and no one comes to the church or to Jesus as a result, do you believe it would still be worthwhile? Why or why not?
11. How will you get involved in working to impact Minneapolis through Breaking Free, City Life Works, or Northeast Middle School? What are the gifts you have to offer?



### **IMPACT: Northeast Middle School**

“Those who would transform a nation or the world cannot do so by breeding and captaining discontent or by demonstrating the reasonableness and desirability of the intended changes or by coercing people to a new way of life. They must know how to kindle and fan an extravagant hope.” –Eric Hoffer

“We might say that spiritual transformation begins as believers begin to match their own attitudes and thoughts with the heart that God has for their community.” –Eric Swanson and Sam Williams

“...every single revival that has ever been a real revival, whether it was the great awakening before the American Revolution; whether it was Wesley or Whitfield; where you have found a great revival, it’s always had three parts. First, it has called for the individual to accept Christ as savior...Then it has called upon the Christians to bow their hearts to God and really let the Holy Spirit have His place in fullness in their life. But there has always been, in every revival, a third element. It has always brought social change.” — Francis Schaeffer

For further reading:

“A Theology as Big as the City” by Raymond Bakke

“To Transform a City” by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams

“The Hole in Our Gospel” by Richard Stearns

## Sermon Notes:

We can't write the history of the United States without also writing \_\_\_\_\_ history.

The "\_\_\_\_\_" wars center on the question of whether the Christian religion should be able to impose its values on people.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a huge temptation.

It's easy to develop an "\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_" mentality.

## Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1-14

Israel was caught between super-powers, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Many Israelite's believed God would never allow anything \_\_\_\_\_ to happen to them because they were God's people.
- Jeremiah's response: "You're not as "\_\_\_\_\_" as you think you are. (Jeremiah 7:2-8)

The Israelites didn't want to be in Babylon.

- They were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Jeremiah's response:

- \_\_\_\_\_ in. (vs 5)
- Seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of the city. (vs 7)
  - God made "\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_" obsolete.

## What we learn from Jeremiah:

1. Is it possible God has taken \_\_\_\_\_ out of power for a reason? (vs. 4)
  - Do we now have the opportunity to stop being the \_\_\_\_\_ and be the \_\_\_\_\_?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ where you're planted. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
  - Don't complain about other people's \_\_\_\_\_; take care of your own.
3. Understand God's love for \_\_\_\_\_ people. (Romans 5:8)
4. Seek the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the city.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ = peace and wholeness. Physical, economic, community, and spiritual well-being.
  - We work for peace by \_\_\_\_\_ peace.
5. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will come in unexpected forms.

## Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Describe what people call the "culture wars." What are the major issues? Who are the "sides?"
2. Why is it so easy to develop an "us vs. them" mentality?
3. What are some other areas of life where we develop the "us vs. them" mentality?