

4/24/22

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FB 14

Sermon – Appreciate the Journey,

Scripture – Jeremiah 29:11, Pro 3:5-6, Mathew 6:25-34

Main Message – Because for the faithful, the destination is set in stone.

The year is 1974. I remember it because it was one of the rare times when my parents and I went on vacation. We left southern Oregon and headed off to Spokane Washington to the World's Fair being held there. As a 13 year old I liked fairs so this was going to be fun. It was a long drive.... Bottom line, the journey was filled with opportunity to have fun. The Fair was OK and I remember a few of the highlights, but it was no Disneyland.

So, it occurred to me that sometimes we can all get into a rut. Whether we realize it or not we are many times just eking out some minor enjoyment along the way to the end of life. That destination isn't really moving for anyone. For believers, we have the hope and confidence in an eternal home filled with... what our minds cannot grasp in the flush, so let's just say, it will be great! We can anticipate a great future and it certainly won't be any kind of a letdown, but the time we have now is to be appreciated. I get frustrated and especially this time of year when I've simply had enough of the weather. I'm doing things, but internally I'm just waiting for better weather and time to have some enjoyment. God tells us this, **JER 29:11-14**

God has good things for us, now. Certainly, the Jews were in captivity, but so we also can become captives inside of ourselves. We can find ourselves in spiritual, emotional, and even physical captivity. I have found all of these types of captivity within myself and especially in the last few months. I know many of you also have battled this – some obvious and some hidden from sight. That is called life and in a broken world our perspective narrows to survival mode. But God wants us to thrive. We will all end up in this desert from time to time, but the first step on the way out is exactly what it says here. Seek out the Lord.

Its not rocket science. When you seek God with all your heart, then the worst thing that can happen is he'll grab you to be with him, so not so bad. When we seek out God, trust in Him, act accordingly to His Will, then the he will bring us out of the inner land of captivity and free us from our self-induced bondage. **Pro 3:5-6** clearly says to trust in Him and not in our own ways. We are captive to our own methods to become free and that will always be sub-par. Living a life of extravagant freedom means fully trusting in the Lord.

Mathew 6:25-34 – really spells it out nicely. We have a Loving Father in Heaven who wants that which is righteous, pure, Holy and perfect for us.

Because in this world, even though we are walking in the valley of the shadow of death, we need not fear any evil, because he is all who call upon His Holy Name.

That destination is set. We just need to live for Him.