

Midweek Matters

Issue 25

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Take your everyday, ordinary life- your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 MSG

Sunday 13th September 2020, Rev Pete Exile lessons 1: Jeremiah

After the alpha course in 2018 we completed The Bible Course, an excellent eight session series from the Bible Society to help us see the big story of the bible. One of the things that stayed with me from that course was the phrase,

"Take a text out of context, and we're left with a con"

As Pete said on Sunday, it is important to understand the context within which passages (that are often familiar to us) have been spoken into. A lot of the Old Testament can seem really harsh if we do not look at the context and it can skew our idea of God's character. Jeremiah 29:4, "God has carried them into exile" is a really challenging thought. His covenant promise is to bless and redeem His people Israel, and yet hear He is, carrying them into exile. Different translations put it slightly differently:

"I have caused (them) to be carried away" (KJV) *"To all the captives (God) has exiled"* (NLT)

"To all those I carried into exile" (NIV)

"To the exiles I've taken" (MSG)

Before they were taken captive though, Jeremiah warns the people to repent, particularly from great injustice and idolatry, but they do not. God is not going to let the people's sin get the final word (as they deserve) the God of grace has a rescue plan but first it is going to involve a painful exile....

- Do you ever ask God to search your attitudes, words, and behaviour? Confess and repent and watch how you are changed by God's grace and forgiveness.
- Could you take some time to read Jeremiah this week?

God Bless,

Hannah

*Jehovah
Shalom –
The LORD
Is Peace
Judges 6:24*