

Saturday 2 April 2022

Jeremiah 29: 10 - 14

10 This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.'

Jeremiah 29:11 is very well known. You see it on motivational cards, journals and an array of "Christian" products from trays to cookie jars. God speaks these words of comfort to the people in exile in Babylon. While we may not be in the same circumstances and part of this does not really apply to us I do believe that God has a purpose and a plan for every one of us and God has told us that he wants good for all his people. We all cling to the hope that God speaks to us in Jeremiah 29:11 that things will work out well for us but there is more to this passage than just a message of hope.

This is a two part message, of what God wants for us and what we should be doing. Often we get so wrapped up in our dreams and hopes, in what our live will look like when everything is going right that we forget that it is God that we should be seeking, more than success and prosperity. While I love verse 11, verse 12 and 13 have become far more precious to me. "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." When we really truly seek God we will find him. When we call on God's name, when we pray to God, God will listen to us. God is never far from us. God is always waiting for us to turn back to him, to put aside all the other distractions of our lives and spend time with God.

Prayer

Gracious God, we come to seek your presence. We long to spend time in your presence not for what you can do for us but for who you are, our great almighty God creator of the vast universe, who holds the stars in his hands and speaks life in existence. And yet as awesome and powerful as you are, you humbled yourself to become like us, to live along side us so that we would know the depth and breadth of your love. We come before you, mere specks in the universe, and yet you listen to every one of our prayers and hear the cries of our hearts. You are beyond our understanding and we worship you, we adore you and we love you.

Help us to seek you truly, to put you before anything else and to trust in your plans for our lives.

In Jesus name, we pray,

Amen.

Rev Kim S Brown