

Live Near Each Other

White Lake Family Camp 2014

Lecture 3/5

1. Jeremiah and the Babylonian Jewish enclave (Jeremiah 29:4-8)
2. A case for Christians living in dense settlement
 - a. Wisdom for a community that is no longer “in charge”
 - i. we need to question the values of our culture! (we fear the Lord, not America)
 - ii. Nassim Taleb, author of *Foiled by Randomness*, *The Black Swan*, *Antifragile*
 - iii. dense settlement is *robust*; dispersed settlement is *fragile*
 - b. What dense settlement does *not* mean ...
 - c. In cities, the “quarter”: dense settlement in an urban area; a tight network of churches
 - i. close cooperative relationships with other area churches
 - ii. recognition that dense, walkable areas is the best-developed, proven, stable, and robust form of social life ever devised
 - iii. love for masses of unsaved people
3. Carrying out our Christian duties: mutual care, evangelism, mercy
 - a. Mutual care
 - i. the ability to pick up stakes and move quickly makes a community robust
 - ii. easier to help Christian friends get work, get an apartment (I love nepotism!)
 - iii. easier to practice hospitality
 - iv. upkeep and attendance of houses of worship are both easier
 - v. we can detect and help with pressing needs much more quickly and easily
 - vi. we make it possible to cooperate and start schools, hospitals, etc.
 - vii. ability to carry out collective action of various kinds
 - b. Evangelism
 - i. what does real evangelism look like?
 - ii. we have had a frontier mentality, and need to adopt a parish mentality
 - iii. real evangelism is part of taking responsibility for the space we occupy as a church: an expression of the kingship of Jesus Christ
 - c. Mercy: meeting pressing needs and doing practical good for the Gentiles
 - i. critical mass is important if we are to make a difference *in a particular area*

ii. Christians have insight as to what makes a good world, and a good city.

4. *Why* band together with the other exiles?