

Title: The Blessing

Text: Luke 10:1-9, Jeremiah 29:4-7

Date: September 29, 2019

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. How would you define "blessing"?
2. Think about an experience where you felt blessed. What happened? How did it affect you?
3. How is the Hebrew word "shalom" different from the English "peace"? What is the common notion about the meaning of "peace"?
4. Pastor Jason brought up the idea of a swear jar as a way of monitoring what comes out of us into the world. What has been coming out of you this past week?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read the Luke passage. Jesus' instructions in Luke 10:10-11 may come off harsh. Why do you think he gave this directive to his disciples and how should we follow them in our situations?
2. What does the blessing, "Peace to this household" convey and offer to the recipient?
3. Pastor Jason mentions that a myopic focus on Jesus breaking the curse can lead to "sin management." How does this notion of "sin management" creep into replacing accepting grace into our faith?
4. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. If you were a Jew in exile in Babylon and heard Jeremiah's message, how would you react?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. For some, the desire to bless others and our surroundings comes easy. Others may be in more complicated situations. What is your reaction to Jesus' call to bless your neighborhood?
2. Pastor Jason suggests, "God doesn't call for obedience or repentance first. Instead, He calls for blessing." How might this change how we go about interacting with others?
3. Take some time to think of people in your life who are hungry to be blessed. How can you bless your household, neighborhood, or workplace? If you feel comfortable, share some ideas how you might bless others with the group, and follow up next week on how it went.