

Saturday & Sunday, June 16 & 17, 2018 - "Everyday Saints - Week 2 - Living As Exiles" - Gerald Coleman

Key Passages: 1 Peter 1:1-12, Daniel 1:1-21, 2:43-49

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We are all saints: God shows up and moves in power in everyday, ordinary things
- 1 Peter 1:1-12
 - Peter calls the people elect AND exiles
 - They were facing persecution and being marginalized BUT they were part of God's chosen people
- How do we live as exiles?
 - The people of God have always been exiles (Babylon in the old testament)
 - We have to learn how to be the people of God in exile (somewhere that is not our home)
 - Our main citizenship is in the Kingdom of God (our primary loyalty)
 - We have an inheritance that cannot be damaged or defiled
 - New Heaven and New Earth where gold is something that we walk on instead of fight over
- 3 Responses of Exiles
 - Assimilate = blend in/give up our identity/loss of witness
 - We lose our power to have impact
 - God has called us to be witnesses to the truth
 - Despair = lose sight of God and his Kingdom/we retreat/lose our saltiness
 - Evil is powerful and doing damage
 - But we can't keep our eyes only on the darkness and how dark it is
 - Re-Imagine = Eyes on God, His Kingdom, and His mission
 - Asking God, "What are You doing in all this darkness?"
 - Esther's story ("For such a time as this")...we are all created for such a time as this
- "The people of God must always wrestle with what it means to be the people of God in their particular context" - Pastor G
- The life of Daniel (he was a teenager in exile in Babylon)
 - The king was trying to reprogram him but Daniel would not be defiled
 - Daniel commits to his identity and decided he was going to live a certain way → it lead to dictating the culture in Babylon
 - Daniel was faithful → God allowed him to be fruitful
 - God was up to something in Babylon (Daniel was undercover for the Kingdom)
 - He needed to interpret the king's dream and what it meant...so he sought the Lord
 - What if we would take time to pray and ask God how he would makes is a witness in our context
 - To a God who has ears and arms
 - Who hears and responds

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Which of the 3 exile responses do you trend towards the most? Why?
2. What do you think it means to be one of the people of God in your context?
3. What is the spiritual temperature in your context? How is God calling you to engage?
4. What is your level of awareness of God working? How can you be more aware of what God is up to?
5. How do you respond to the idea that you were made for "such a time as this"?
6. When was a time when your faithfulness lead to God producing fruit in and/or through you?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Acts 21 Tues: Acts 22 Wed: Acts 23 Thurs: Acts 24 Fri: Acts 25

Songs from the weekend: Lion and the Lamb - Bethel Music - Raised to Life - Grace Worship Original - Made A Way - Travis Greene - Reckless Love - Cory Asbury