

Global Culture

The Multi-Ethnic Family of God

Jeremiah 29:4-9

September 24, 2023

Introduction: Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that for early Christians "the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society." We're struggling today with race. Are we struggling in ways that just reflect society or that reflect Jesus and the unique promise of his good news to transform society through followers like you? "Global Culture" is one of our Five Values at UPC. It's time not just to take the temperature but flip a switch.

Prayer: Father, show us your love for ourselves and for others as we examine this scripture together. Amen.

Read: Jeremiah 29:4-9

Review: What did you learn about your part in ending racism?

Discussion:

1. Why are the exiles in Babylon? See Jeremiah 21:8-22:5.
2. What directions does God have for the Exiles in Babylon? Why may these directions feel contrary to what they are feeling and experiencing? See Psalm 137, Lamentations 1:1-5
3. Verses 8 and 9 imply that the people are hearing of different plans for their future that are more to their liking. What are some of your dreams of how things should be? How do you discover if these things are from God or merely wishful thinking?
4. Where has God placed you? What is God calling you to do there? Who is He calling you to be?

Application: Ask God to give you a clear idea of his plans for you in your community.

Prayer: Father, show us your will for our lives and how we should relate to our communities. Amen.