

Directions

Part 1 – The Most Important Question

Jeremiah 29.1-14

Commit (v.4)

- Choices have consequences
 - Important because most choices bring us closer to or send us farther from God
- Wrong question: what is God's will *for my life*?
 - Right question: what is God's will?
 - It defines us, we don't define it
- Big Lie: God's will is advice – take it or leave it, for our enhancement or enjoyment
 - If I knew it beforehand, would I do it unconditionally?
 - Underlying problem is we know so little of the One we're following – the LORD of hosts, God of Israel, etc.
 - Underlying question: can He be trusted, can I follow Him?
 - C.S. Lewis – "Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion" ... "Safe?" said Mr Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."
- He's shown His commitment to you in the cross

Daily

- Easy to follow during big decisions, right? Or do we need daily practice? (Luke 9.23)
 - ILL: Free Throws (big decisions) and Forehands (elapsed time)
 - Most of life isn't big decisions but little ones
 - Because the Jesus who fed the 5000 also commanded His disciples to row all night against the storm while He took a stroll
- Temptation: different direction (v.4-7)
- Temptation: better promise (v.8-9)
- Temptation: bad timing (v.10)
- Big Lie: God wants me to be successful
 - God is much more interested in your character than your comfort
 - How do you hear that when things are so tough for you? When you thought you heard the Lord (28.15)
 - "Jesus promised His disciples three things – that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble" ~ G.K. Chesterton

Seek Him (v.12-13)

- Never commanded to seek His will
 - Multiple commands to seek Him

- Big Lie: God's will and His Person are found separately
 - Maps have you looking down – a Guide has you looking up and listening
 - Can see sights, see the guide, see what's going on around you, speak to those who are with you (Google Maps – have to be able to hear, see the track, etc.)
 - The best way to find out what someone wants on a consistent basis is by knowing them intimately
 - People who know Him are more interested in following Him than finding His will
 - Why? Because they know that HE is better than anything He could give them

Commit Daily to Seek Him

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the first thing that springs to mind when you hear the phrase, "Choices have consequences?"
2. If we believe the Big Lie that God's will is advice, what does it say about us? What does it say that we believe about God? What does it say we believe about the future? What does it say about the nature of following Jesus? How does His simple call to "Follow Me" wrestle with each of these?
3. In Jeremiah 29.4-10, we identified 3 temptations to jump ship when God's will doesn't go the way we want it to. Which of those 3 struck closest to home for you? Why? What do you do to fight off the temptation?
4. When you read Jeremiah 29.11 in context, it's clear that He's speaking to them in the middle of their hardship. How does that change our experience of that incredible promise? In the sermon, we argued that God is more interested in our character than our comfort. How have you seen that in your own life?
5. Who would you say is the person you know best? What would an outside observer see that would agree with that? If you apply those things to a relationship with God, how does that affect how you seek Him and understand His will?