

Sermon Notes

Risk Church

29 March 2020, AM

Speaker: Ps Rob Clayton (Online)

Title: Making the Most of the COVID-19 Lockdown - Here's What You can Do

Notes

- Jer 29:4-14 Many were in captivity, especially the poor. Much conflicting advice and opinions over whether there would be 70 yrs of captivity.
 - Likewise today, much conflicting opinion with the COVID-19 (c19) lockdown
 - It's not our fault that c19 is in the world and that we're locked down
 - God is still in control
 - Rom 8:28 God works all things together for good for those who love him.
- There's only a set time for this (70yrs for Israel v10, 4+ weeks for us)
- We're in a win-win situation. Regardless of whether we live or die, we will be with Jesus.
- The journey always seems the longest when you haven't been there before.
 - The return journey always seems so much quicker.
 - Joshua 3:4 God put physical distance between Israel and the ark. This kind of distance between us and God occurs in a few places in Scripture. So isolation isn't necessarily a bad thing
- **How do we maintain our health and sanity in these circumstances, these 4 weeks of lockdown?**
- V5 "Build"
 - Make the most of the situation
 - Don't just sit down and wait for the situation to pass.
 - Things that you could do:
 - Write a poem
 - Write a blog
 - Keep a good routine. Get up at the same time every morning
 - Pick up a book
 - Do some Bible study. Pick up a Bible and study it. There are some great free Bible study resources on the internet

- Get online with someone, “What are you reading in the Bible? I’m reading this.” Share the revelations from the Holy Spirit of what you’re each reading.
- Editor: www.biblestudytools.com, www.gotquestions.org

■ Pray

- Pray for leaders, for the govt that they might have wisdom and that God will work with them. You might not like them, but we’re called to pray for them all the same as believers (Editor: 1 Tim 2:1-4)
- Pray for frontline staff, nurses, doctors, supermarket workers, garbage collection, etc. Applaud them. Call out thanks from your 2m safe zone. Say “God bless you. We appreciate you.” Blessing is powerful. Many of these people are fearful. They are putting themselves at risk, including their families that they go back to.
- Pray for healing from a distance - you don’t need to lay hands on people to pray for healing.
- Pray for one another
- It’s time to pray!
- Jeremiah wrote, “ 7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and **pray to the Lord for it**; for in its peace you will have peace.”
 - As believers, we have the authority in the name of Jesus to pray for our city.
 - This is our responsibility. Heaven hears your’s and my prayer. God is listening to everyone of us.
 - Prayer is conversation with God

■ Get close to God

- v10 b “... I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.”
- This lockdown will come to an end. We will interact with each other again and physically touch each other again
- v11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil...”
 - God isn’t thinking evil of you. He’s thinking of giving you a future and a hope

- Vv 12-13 Call upon Him - this carries the idea of accosting someone. So go after God. Accost Him. God doesn't mind. This is an invitation. He's inviting us to go after Him.
- He's allowed and given us and created this time to call upon Him, to seek Him, to enquire about Him, to request, to extract from Him, to pray to Him.
- V12 Pray - God's prayer is open to our cry. Many scriptures talk about answered prayer.
- Search for Him - get into the Word. Read and study it. It's food for the soul. Study is important. But also in the reading there's still the seeking and enquiring after God.
- Study, but just read it and let the Word do it's work. Let it inspire, bless and encourage you.
- Connect with each other
 - We need each other. Don't forsake gathering together (Editor: Heb 10:25)
 - We need each other. Meet online.
 - Don't feel "I don't want to bother that person."
- These things will help get us through
- We're looking to increase in our life. We will be spending time together. So build into each other.
- Jesus is the best thing that has happened to us. Ask Jesus to come into your life and then look to Him for protection.
- EXERCISES FOR THIS WEEK
 - CHILDREN - Count the number of teddy bears on your walks
 - ADULTS - Anoint your doors as a way of extending your faith that God is protecting and guiding you. Also anoint the members of your family and pray a blessing of Jesus' blood over them, protecting them. Also, pray protection over your neighbour's homes too.
- FEEDBACK
 - Let us know how you got on with the above.
- NEXT WEEK: Guest Speakers Caleb and Whena Clayton

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- Our website: www.riskchurch.org.nz
- Want to request prayer?: www.riskchurch.org.nz/prayer
- Listen to past sermons: www.riskchurch.org.nz/listen
- Contact us: www.riskchurch.org.nz/contact
- Risk Church Facebook community Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/RISKChurchCommunity/

Bible Passages

Jeremiah 29:4-14 (NKJV)

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. 6 Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. 7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. 8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. 9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the Lord.

10 For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Joshua 3:4

⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.”

(NKJV)

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable

life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(NKJV)

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

(NKJV)