

Message Notes

It's Not About Us
Jeremiah 29:1-7
April 23, 2006

Message Outline

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I. God's People in the City

II. History of Grace Church in the City

III. Grace and You in the City

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Jeremiah 29:1-23. Why did God carry Israel to Babylon? What did God want to accomplish in His people's lives and in the lives of the Babylonians? Why was God so concerned about the false prophets? What false things were they going to say?
2. Read Isaiah 58:1-14. Why was God angry at Israel when they seemed to be doing all the right religious rituals? What is it in verses 6-7 that turns God toward His people and brings blessing to them? What is different about the "doing" in verses 6-14 compared to the "doing" in verses 1-5?
3. Read Galatians 2:1-10. What one thing did the other apostles ask of Paul? Why were they so concerned about helping the poor? How is this type of ministry "incarnational" and "missional"?
4. Why was Grace Church planted in San Luis Obispo? What were some of the cultural issues in SLO during the 1930's and 1940's? Other than the eternal relevance of the Gospel how did Grace Church make itself "relevant" to their community?
5. Why is Grace Church in SLO today? Why are you in SLO? How are we seeking the welfare of our community?
6. Read Acts 6:1-7. Why were "deacons" first chosen? Through the deacons' ministry what was shown to the fledgling church? What was shown to the community around them?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What is most challenging or new in the message this week? Which point was the most important and meaningful for you?
2. What do you find is the most confusing thing about ministry to the poor? What do you think it will take to end that confusion? What are some underlying reasons for poverty in the U.S. and the world today?
3. If you asked most Christians today to remember one thing, (other than the Gospel) what would they say?
4. How do you see yourself becoming involved in community ministry in the future?
5. How would you feel walking into Grace Church on a Sunday morning if you were homeless? How can a homeless person get involved in the life of Grace Church?
6. What will it take to reach the poor in San Luis Obispo? Do you think inviting them to church is the answer?