



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: CDC Sunday – Shalom of the City and Shalom of the Self**

**Speaker: Redd Sevilla, Executive Director, CDC**

**Scripture: Jeremiah 29: 1-7, 10-11**

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

*Jeremiah 29: 1-7, 10-11 (NIV)*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

- God writes the above letter to his people, through Jeremiah. Jeremiah provides great guide how to live our lives missionally. The people of Judah are 500 miles away in Babylon because Babylon burned the city of Jerusalem and physically carried out its people to Babylon. The world as they knew it was in ruins. For the people of Judah, their shalom was in Jerusalem.
- The letter says to build houses, settle down and start families.
- The people of Israel may feel as if they are in exile until they pass from this Earth, but God says where I have carried you, I want you to plant roots.
- God says not to destroy this City but to add to it.
- It says to seek peace and prosperity through prayer, for if it prospers, you too will prosper.
- The pursuit of shalom for ourselves can often be disguised as the reach for the American Dream in our hard work for material gain and prosperity, while at the same time, we can be silent about: generosity, compassion to the poor, and serving others.
- God offers his people Good Shalom based on a Good promise: You will experience my shalom for you and ruins will be restored.
- God also offers his people Grand Shalom based on a Grand promise: You will experience my grand shalom for you and all things in ruin will be made new. The new heavens and new earth will be created. (Isaiah 65: 17-23)
- God promises good shalom for his people and grand shalom for humanity. The grand promise is fulfilled with the coming of Christ, he comes and makes everything new; whether it be the ruins in your personal life or in your neighborhood.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Redd Sevilla, New Life CDC Executive Director, speaks on CDC Sunday on renewing a city in ruins.

### **Sermon Questions**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what was your neighborhood like? Was your family involved in the community or did they keep to themselves?
3. Do you identify with the exiles of this passage? Are you an immigrant or do you live in an oppressive environment?
4. What guides you or what questions do you ask when you choose the neighborhood you live in, the job you have, the school you send your children to?
5. What is your initial reaction if you are displeased with something at work, school or in your neighborhood?
6. What larger difficulties do you see in seeking the "shalom of NYC"?
7. What action can you take in the near future to add value to your community?
8. Is there anything in your own personal life you want Christ to make new?
9. God promises Shalom to his people. Are you able to receive the shalom of God and then able to give that shalom to those around you?