

Now What Do I Do?

(Jeremiah 29:4-14)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever found yourself at a place in life when you ask the question, "Now what do I do?"
 2. Such times are usually unsettling.
 3. Especially so when we are discussing more than just trivial matters.
 4. What are we to do when this question is asked when it has to do with our future?
 5. God's word has an answer for every time and every circumstance in life.
 6. Let's consider the advice God gave the Israelites when they found themselves in a difficult time and take note how his answer to them is an answer to us as well.

I. God's Care

- A. He was saddened by their rebellion and failure to repent.
- B. He disciplined them so that they would learn a lesson.
- C. But during this discipline, God was not silent; he gave them instruction (Jeremiah 29:4).

II. God's Instruction

- A. The solution isn't always quick and easy.
 1. (Jeremiah 29:5-6).
 2. He instructed them to not just sit and wait; but to live in their unfortunate circumstances.
 3. Don't stop living when circumstances get rough; you'll rob yourself and God of what could have been.
 4. (Philippians 4:11).
- B. Pray for those who have made your life difficult.
 1. (Jeremiah 29:7).
 2. This is difficult, but right and helpful.
 3. (Matthew 5:44).
- C. Don't fall prey to false hope.
 1. (Jeremiah 29:8-9).
 2. There will always be people with a smooth, easy message that isn't the word or will of God.
 3. (2 Timothy 4:3-4).
- D. God has long term plans to bless you.
 1. (Jeremiah 29:10-14).
 2. There's more to life than the temporal – get perspective.
 3. (Revelation 2:10; 6:10; 20:4).

- Conclusion:
1. You may be in one of those "Now what do I do?" moments.
 2. If so, don't turn aside by false hopes, resolve to strengthen your grip and in due time, you will experience relief.