



Things God Never Said - pt 3

“Prosperity?”

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Sunday, 3/8/2026

Five-Day Devotional: God's Faithful Plans Through Our Trials

Day 1: When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-14

Devotional: Sometimes life just doesn't make sense. We find ourselves in circumstances we never anticipated—loss, disappointment, confusion. The exiles in Babylon felt this acutely. They were torn from home, living in captivity, wondering if God had abandoned them. Yet God's message through Jeremiah was counterintuitive: "Build homes. Plant gardens. Settle in." God wasn't absent in their suffering; He was present in it. His plans weren't derailed by their circumstances—His plans included their circumstances. When you're shaking like a leaf, remember that God's faithfulness doesn't mean the absence of trials, but His presence through them. He doesn't just promise to get you out; He promises to be with you in it. His plans are still good, even when life doesn't make sense.

Reflection: What circumstance in your life right now doesn't make sense? How might God be asking you to "settle in" and trust Him where you are?

Day 2: The Promise of God's Presence

Reading: Psalm 23

Devotional: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." Notice the psalmist doesn't say "if" but "when." Trials aren't anomalies in the Christian life—they're part of the journey. The promise isn't that we'll avoid the valley; it's that we won't walk through it alone. God's goodness and mercy don't show up after the trial ends; they pursue us through the darkest moments. His rod and staff comfort us in real-time. When we misinterpret Jeremiah 29:11 as a promise of ease, we set ourselves up for disappointment. But when we understand it as a promise of presence, we discover something far better: God Himself is our prosperity. He is the treasure. He is the answer. And He never leaves us.

Reflection: Where do you need to experience God's presence today rather than just His deliverance?

Day 3: Grafted Into God's Promises

Reading: Romans 11:11-24

Devotional: You might read Jeremiah 29:11 and think, "That's a nice promise for ancient Israel, but what about me?" Here's the beautiful truth: through faith in Jesus Christ, you've been grafted into God's family tree. You're not an outsider looking in; you're an adopted child sharing in every promise God made to His people. The same God who promised restoration to the exiles promises restoration to you. The same God who worked through their trials works through yours. His covenant faithfulness extends to all who call on His name. You're not experiencing a lesser version of God's love—you're experiencing the fullness of it through Christ. Every promise, every blessing, every hope that belongs to God's people now belongs to you. You're family.

Reflection: How does knowing you're grafted into God's family change how you read His promises?

Day 4: Prosperity in the Process

Reading: James 1:2-12

Devotional: "Consider it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds." James isn't being sadistic; he's being realistic. Trials aren't interruptions to God's plan—they're often the very means by which He accomplishes it. True biblical prosperity isn't the absence of difficulty; it's knowing God better through it. The exiles were told to "work for the peace and prosperity of the city" where they were captive. God's instruction was radical: prosper where you are, not where you wish you were. When we're constantly waiting for circumstances to change before we can experience God's goodness, we miss the goodness He's offering us now. Perseverance develops character. Character develops hope. And hope doesn't disappoint. God isn't asking you to pretend everything's fine—He's inviting you to find Him faithful in the fire.

Reflection: What might God be developing in you through your current trial?

Day 5: Choosing the Jesus Way

Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Devotional: "Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you." Peter wrote this to people who literally walked with Jesus, witnessed His miracles, and heard His teachings firsthand. Even they faced fiery trials. The Christian life isn't a promise of comfort—it's a promise of companionship. Jesus doesn't shield us from every hardship; He walks through it with us. The Jesus way means choosing trust when circumstances scream despair. It means worshiping no matter what you face. It means believing that God's eternal plan is more glorious than your temporary pain. Church Scott Ryan never experienced the brokenness of this world, but he also never experienced the fullness of Jesus' presence. While we grieve, we don't grieve as those without hope. We choose the Jesus way—the way of surrender, love, and unwavering trust in God's good, good plans.

Reflection: What does choosing "the Jesus way" look like for you today in your specific circumstances?

Weekly Memory Verse: "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 29:11

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, hold us when we're shaking like a leaf. You have been King of our glory—be our Prince of Peace. Help us trust Your plans even when they don't match our expectations. Teach us to abide in You through every trial, knowing that Your presence is better than any circumstance. Make it well with our souls. In Jesus' name, Amen.