

Sunday, June 28, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through the symbolic act of wearing a yoke of straps and bars over his neck, Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed unless it came true.

5-6 - The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD: "May the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles."

7-9 – "But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

10-11 – Then Hananiah took the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah and broke it. And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the Lord: This is how I will break the yoke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years."

12-13 – The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: "Go, tell Hananiah, Thus says the Lord: You have broken wooden bars only to forge iron bars in place of them!"

15-17 - The prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, "The Lord has not sent you; you made this people trust in a lie. Within this year you will be dead." In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

Have you ever trusted in a lie? When have you seen other people trust in a lie? Do you – like Jeremiah - have the courage to speak up when you see people trusting in a lie?

Jeremiah 29: 5-7, 10-11

Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters. Multiply there, and do not decrease. Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

How can we seek the welfare of where we live and pray to the Lord on its behalf?

What does it mean to you to know that God has plans for you – plans to give you hope and a future? What do you think God’s plans for you might be? Where do you most need hope? Where do you most look forward to the future?

Romans 6:12-23

12 - Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Cf. “We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.”

15 - Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

17-18 - Thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

19 - Just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

21-22 – So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life.

23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42

Luke 4: 18 –

At the beginning of His ministry, in His inaugural address, in the one time in the Bible when Jesus was handed a Bible and told, “Select a passage to read for us,” Jesus chose a passage which expressed God’s great concern for the poor.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.”

Matthew 25 -

At the end of His ministry, in His last recorded sermon in the Bible, Jesus expressed His concern for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick.

Verse 35 – I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

Verse 40 – Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Matthew 10: 42 - Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

In a land like Israel a cup of cold water is not just a good thing, it is a necessity for life and survival.

Wall Drug, South Dakota

1980 – Hitchhiking around the Sea of Galilee