

and He promises that as we do so **we will find Him.**

How might God be instructing you through these words to step into the waiting and the difficulty that the next year holds for us?

Consider with me this principle and these commitments:

1. God is involved.
2. Live out your calling.
3. Impact your city.
4. Seek the Lord.

Spiritual formation is habit formation. Mark Batterson

Reflection Questions:

Where do you see God's involvement amidst difficulty right now?

How is God calling you to live for Him?

How is God calling you to impact your city?

How will you seek the Lord this week?

interview, an important presentation, a difficult conversation...
Christmas...

We often want to fast forward through the waiting and the difficult.

As if to say... there is nothing good for me or beneficial me in the waiting and the difficult – I just want to skip to the “good” learning... much of life is the waiting and the difficult.

What can we learn about the heart of God for His people in the difficult moments/seasons of the waiting and the difficult?

Jeremiah sent a letter to the exiles from Jerusalem who had been deported to Babylon. They were living amidst a foreign people in a foreign land with foreign customs and foreign religions. They were foreigners in every sense of the word. They just wanted out. They just wanted life to go back to the way it had been. But they were... waiting.. for this nightmare to end / for this punishment to be over / for this difficult season to pass... waiting – wishing to fast forward through it all.

And God gives them this message through the prophet Jeremiah **13**. It comes through a letter that Jeremiah wrote to those who had been carried into exile in Babylon. *Read it. (Authoritative, Infallible)*

Now... to be clear – this is not the equivalent of a letter from the people of Tippecanoe County in 2021. It's a letter to the Je

- Cause or allow?
- Punishment or natural consequences?

embrace God's involvement amidst...

Amidst the confusion and mystery, here is what is clear: **God's hand is out your calling.** v5-6 –

involved. That tells me that the circumstances are not spinning out of His control. **God is involved.** We can choose to **complain** about His involvement, **curse** Him for His involvement or **comply** with His involvement. (Failed test, didn't get the job, illness... which do you do?)

1. He is with you (Isaiah 41:10)
2. The world is not spinning out of His control. (Isaiah 40:21-24)

Never need to panic... one next step.

Cultivate the earth and be fruitful and multiply – *keep doing what you are calling you to do since the beginning.* What are some that God through scripture has clearly called us all to do?

• Matthew 22
 • Romans 12:9b-18
 • John 15

What are you doing with the difficult circumstances that you're going through right now? Here's my personal experience:

Complaining or cursing God for His involvement or perceived lack of involvement in difficult circumstances has never made my circumstances better. **Never.**

Placing faith (Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see) in God in the midst of difficult circumstances changes my heart and my mind **every time.**

- That doesn't mean I'm smiling through the process.
- It doesn't mean the process is painless.

Complying with – willingly placing my faith/trust in - **God's involvement** in a given difficult circumstance **changes my heart and my mind every time.** It **reframes** the way I see and understand my circumstances.

Think of it this way... when I place trust in God's involvement I see more

How is God calling you to live even in the midst of waiting?

3. Impact your city.
 v7 Seek the good of the city where I have placed you. **Pray**
 Rom 12:21 – pray – it is a “good” you can do in the midst of
 1 Timothy 2:1 – pray for kings and those in authority

Examples: School board, city counsel, non-profit board, ho
 association, CASA, foster care, adoption, Murdock Element
 Could it be that even during your season of waiting or diffi
 calling you to **Impact our city?!**

4. See the Lord.

v1 I have good plans for you – prosper, not harm, hope a
 Do you trust that God has your best in mind – because the
 more is that He does?