

STRANGER in a STRANGE LAND

sermon notes | october 16, 2011

Throughout this series, we have explored how Peter called us to live when he named us Exiles. We've seen that too often we feel more like suburban Americans than we really do citizens of God's Kingdom. We tend to be shaped by values that are not always in line with the submissive way Jesus modeled for us. Today, we see that Peter warns us this is not a neutral game. As Christians, we have an adversary who wants to use the surrounding culture to lead us away from the transformation Jesus' Gospel offers to us. And he's not subtle. We must have the courage to resist the lure of our culture, trusting that God will protect and restore us.

Scripture for Further Reading::

Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 11:1-12:2; James 1:12-25; Revelation 12:7-12, 17

Questions for Discussion::

1. How out of place do you feel in your culture? Would you describe yourself as an Exile, an immigrant? Why or why not?
2. Where do you see conflict between suburban American culture and the values of the Kingdom of God?
3. In which of those conflicts is it hardest for you to choose God's way? Why?
4. In which of those conflicts is it easiest for you to choose God's way? Why?
5. What practices can you implement to help you learn to resist those negative cultural values?
6. Who will hold you accountable to keep up with these practices?

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