

NOT THE END

sermon notes | november 6, 2011

WHAT'S BEHIND US

We live in a world shaped by choices other people have made. We live in an inheritance that seems pretty broken most of the time. It's easy to feel trapped by what's been chosen for us. But God gave Ezekiel a message for the Israelite Exiles that we need to hear too. God says that we are responsible to choose God here and now, in our time. That we will be held accountable not for what others have done to us but what we choose. What's behind us doesn't define us.

Scriptures for Reading and Meditation

Isaiah 62:1-4; Isaiah 66:18-23; Romans 7:25-8:1; Romans 8:28-39; Rev. 3:7-12

Questions for Discussion

1. At a cultural or national level, what decisions have been made for you that define you in ways you don't like?
2. At a personal level, what decisions have been made for you that define you in ways you don't like?
3. What was God's message to the Exiled Israelites through Ezekiel in chapter 18? How does that relate to your life?
4. Do you feel defined by others' decisions? Why or why not?
5. What does God's promise in Isaiah 62 to give you a new name mean?
6. From what do you need to turn and repent? How can you begin to live out the new name God has given you instead of the sour name you've inherited?