

# NOT THE END

sermon notes | november 13, 2011

In witnessing the collapse of institutions Western culture has put our faith in for the last 500 years, we are despairing more and more as a society. Christians who are choosing to live in this world as Exiles, however, know that this is actually Good News because God is doing something new. We can feel the despair our culture feels as we mourn for the loss of what used to give us safety and security. But we can't stay there. We must choose to live by faith, to believe God's promises that This is Not the End!

## Scripture for further reading:

Isaiah 43:15-21; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Jeremiah 31:27-34; Hebrews 11:1-12:2

## Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you agree that our culture is increasing more despairing? Why or why not? What evidence do you have to support your view?
2. Where in your own life do you see evidence of the despair that's engulfing our culture?
3. How do you tend to respond to despair? What about those closest to you?
4. What does it mean to walk by faith instead of by our feelings?
5. How should you as a follower of Jesus respond to the despair you experience in the culture around you?

**Link to Spiritual Practices Guide:** <http://jrforasteros/resources/>