



Date: October 1, 2017

Sermon Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-7

Sermon Title: A Vision for the City

### **GETTING TO KNOW ME**

- Share with your group: Where are you from originally? What brought you and your family to Midland (or Mid-Michigan)? How was the transition – smooth or challenging, and why so? How are you now? How have you put down roots in Midland (or Mid-Michigan)?
- Share with your group if/how you are involved locally in the community in which you live.
- Share with your group any Prayer Walking experience you have had, either locally or globally. What did you do? How did you prepare for it? How did it go? What lessons did you learn?

### **INTO THE BIBLE & APPLICATION**

1. Can you make a case that Prayer Walking is biblical? Read the following Scriptures and discuss what you learn about Prayer Walking.
  - Genesis 13:17-18 (Prayer Walking by Abram, who was later called Abraham).
  - Joshua 6 (Joshua Prayer Walking around Jericho; also see Joshua 1:3).
  - Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 (Prayer Walking by the 72 Jesus sent out).
2. Read Acts 8:4-25 and discuss the following questions.
  - What was the catalyst for this ministry in Samaria?
  - What barriers did Philip have to overcome to minister in Samaria?
  - How did Philip minister in Samaria?
  - What were the results of Philip's ministry in Samaria?
  - What can we learn from Philip's ministry in Samaria and apply in Midland (or Mid-Michigan) today?
3. Read 8:26-40 and discuss the following questions.
  - What was the catalyst for Philip's ministry to the Ethiopian?
  - What barriers did Philip have to overcome to minister to the Ethiopian?
  - How did Philip minister to the Ethiopian?
  - What were the results of Philip's ministry to the Ethiopian?
  - What can we learn from Philip's ministry to the Ethiopian and apply in Midland (or Mid-Michigan) today?
4. Read Acts 6:1-7 and 21:7-16 and discuss the following questions.
  - What do you learn about Philip from these Scriptures? Any application for us today?



5. From all that you have learned about Philip (from questions 2, 3, and 4), describe him in your own words and glean lessons you can apply today in your life.<sup>1</sup>
6. Read Acts 11:19-30 and discuss the following questions.
  - What (and who) were the catalysts for this church plant in Antioch? What barriers did they have to overcome to found the church in Antioch and minister there?<sup>2</sup>
  - How did they minister in Antioch? What were their distinguishing characteristics that they were given the name “Christians”?
  - What can we learn from the ministry in Antioch and apply in Midland (or Mid-Michigan) today?
7. Read or have someone in your group summarize the first two chapters of Nehemiah and discuss the following questions.
  - What was the catalyst for Nehemiah’s ministry in Jerusalem?
  - What did Nehemiah do? Capture Nehemiah’s activities in sequential order.
  - What were the results of Nehemiah’s ministry in Jerusalem? (See, Nehemiah 6:15-16)
  - What can we learn from Nehemiah and apply in Midland (or Mid-Michigan) today?

#### **FOOTNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> A point worthy of note is that, in keeping with Acts 1:8, Philip witnessed in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Antioch was a cosmopolitan city of religious pluralism worshipping a pantheon of gods and goddesses such as Daphne, Artemis, Apollos, Astarte, Zeus, Poseidon, Adonis, and Tyche. Worship practices included temple prostitution, thus the city was known throughout the Roman Empire for its moral laxity.