

SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

A Church The City Would Miss | Kyle Richter | November 15, 2026

Article Review: "How to Honor Your Maker with Your Wallet"

- How did the article shift your perspective on money?
- What were your answers to questions 5 & 6 from the article?
    - What step can you take to increasingly honor God in your financial life?
    - What other takeaways do you have from this guide?

"The Gospel for Bruised Reeds"

- What did you learn about how God might be working through pain in your life? What might he be trying to communicate to you through it?

Opening Question: What's a place in Columbia you'd genuinely miss if it closed tomorrow? Why?

Sermon Discussion

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NIV)

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. **7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

1. Kyle pointed out that God says, "I carried you into exile," even though Babylon's army took them. God purposefully put Israel there. How does it change the way you see your street, job, classroom, or team to think God has placed you there for a purpose?

Psalm 137:1 (NIV)

1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

2. Psalm 137 shows how the exiles actually felt about Babylon: grief, resentment, even asking God to repay them. Why would God's command to pray for Babylon and seek its peace have been so shocking? Is there a "Babylon" in your life, a place or people you find it hard to want good for?

3. Kyle said that "peace and prosperity" is the Hebrew word shalom, which means more than the absence of conflict. It means completeness, fullness, the way things are supposed to be. What would shalom look like in Columbia? Where do you see it most missing?

Isaiah 58:2-7 (NIV)

2 For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.
3 'Why have we fasted,' they say,
'and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?'
"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

4. What was wrong with their worship? How might that same problem show up in religious people today, including us?

5. Kyle told about a church member who was worried our prayers were too political because we kept praying about justice and oppression. Why do you think words like "justice" can sound political? What does it do for us to see how often the Bible uses them?

Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV)

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:
"'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

James 2:15-17 (NIV)

15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

6. Some people say, “Just give me Jesus and leave all that other stuff out.” How do the Lord’s Prayer and James 2 respond to that?

7. Kyle said this isn’t something for ministry staff to do for everyone else. It was ordinary Christians that Julian couldn’t copy. Kyle asked us: What do the people who work for you say about working for you? Do your neighbors know your name? Is your street better because you’re on it? Which of those questions hits closest to home, and why?

Sharing and Prayer

- Have everyone share one place God has “carried” them (a street, workplace, classroom, team) and one need or person there they’d like to see flourish.

- Have people pray silently for that place.

- Come back together and close with short, one-sentence “popcorn” prayers for Columbia. Invite people to name specific parts of the city: our schools, hospitals, nonprofits, city leaders, neighbors without housing, families in foster care.

What to Do for Next Time

- This week, do the chapter from *Discipleship Essentials* on “Justice.” After the next sermon on 11/22, think through the worksheet on *How Faith Affects Our Work* before our next meeting.
- Both can be found at this link: https://info.thecrossingchurch.com/fall-2026-sermon-discussion