



Faith for Exiles
Part 2: Babylon, A Sober-Minded Resistance
Mark 4:4-7

Big Idea: It is good to be soberly aware of cultural Babylon, but our hope is in the Kingdom of God that is eternal and will never be overcome

Characteristics of Babylon:

Historical

Political

Theological

“Babylon symbolizes arrogant attempts to rule the world without God through power and oppression.” – Preston Sprinkle, *Exiles: The Church In the Shadow of An Empire*

Babylon Today

“If a literal Babylon were around today, the internet would certainly be in the imperial toolbox—and insofar as we thoughtlessly consume whatever content comes our way, we’d be cheerful participants in our own colonization. Even without a literal empire knocking on our door, many of us are willingly held captive – David Kinnamon and Mark Matlock, *Faith For Exiles*

Parallels to the Soils of the Parable of the Sower

- Pathway

- Rocky soil

- Thorny soil

Application

Four Primary Ways to exist in Babylon:
Syncretists

Separatists

Revolutionaries

Faithful presence

“Submission is fueled by hope: hope that Babylon’s reign is temporary, that God’s reign is ultimate and eternal, and that in a short while God will destroy Babylon.... Faithfulness in exile is ‘nonconformity to the world as the basis from which to work for change.’” – Preston Sprinkle, *Exiles: The Church In the Shadow of An Empire*

“But it’s not the end of the story. These are simply the Enemy’s short-term and temporary victories on the way to his great and final defeat. Today’s score isn’t the final score. Nothing can separate us from the love of God and the glorious eternity he has laid out for us. And knowing that should change everything about how we interpret and respond to the things that happen around us—even when they are tough, evil, and hard to swallow. Fear and pessimism make no sense when victory is guaranteed.” – Larry Osborne, *Thriving In Babylon*

Bibliography:

Kinnaman, David, and Mark Matlock. *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2019.

Osborne, Larry W. *Thriving in Babylon: Why Hope, Humility and Wisdom Matter in a Godless Culture*. First edition. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2015.

Smith, Efrem. *Killing Us Softly: Reborn in the Upside-down Image of God*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, resource published in alliance with Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 2017.

Sprinkle, Preston. *Exiles: The Church in the Shadow of Empire*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2024.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Is there anything that challenged you from the sermon?
3. Is there any point of the sermon that you want to push back on your that requires further discussion?
4. How do you see Babylon operating in your daily life? Are there specific moments, characteristics or even people that you can recall that represent Babylon?
5. How do we hold Babylon in check? What are some practices that you use in life to not let Babylon become all-consuming in your life?
6. How do you interpret submissive resistance into your own life? What are some ways that you are reminded that you are a citizen of God's Kingdom first and that Babylon will not win in your life?
7. How do you maintain hope in your life based on the reminder that God's Kingdom will not be overcome?