



Reset - Redeeming the Quarantine

Key idea:

Like the exile, our current time of disruption should be used as a divinely appointed season to reset our priorities and practices, redeeming the quarantine to make beneficial changes to our lives.

Key text:

Deuteronomy 4:27-31

The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you. ²⁸ There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. ²⁹ But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. ³¹ For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.

Key points:

1. From creation God has given days, weeks, seasons, and years as a time of 'reset' for people to rest, reflect, repent, and be restored to His purposes.
2. The exile was a major disruption for the people of Judah, and they were called to use it as a divinely ordained time to "reset" their priorities and practices.
3. There are two possible reactions in major times of disruption:
 - a. Attempt to muddle through without examining or changing any habits or practices
 - b. Redeem the time by turning to God with fresh urgency, seeking Him with all of my heart and soul.
4. There are a number of ways we can 'reset' during this time and redeem the quarantine. To do this I should ask myself the following questions:
 - a. Is God calling me to Jesus for salvation?

- b. Is God calling me to establish/renew daily time with Jesus in Scripture and prayer?
- c. Is the Spirit working to reveal and remove sin?
- d. Is God calling me to turn off the TV and read more?
- e. Is God calling us to establish or renew family devotions/prayer?
- f. Is God calling us to reconnect as a family?
- g. Is God calling me to establish a pattern of weekly worship?
- h. Are there beneficial habits God is calling me to establish or renew?

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How did God institute a pattern of new beginnings and "resets" into creation? What regular patterns give us fresh chances to make changes in life?
3. How does technology make it harder for us to recognize the divinely ordained pattern of new beginnings? How does technology blur the distinction between day and night, weeks, seasons, and years?
4. When I consider how technology tends to blur the God-ordained distinctions in time, how can it make it harder for me to "reset" the priorities and practices that are guiding my life? How can I work to make sure this does not happen?
5. The exile was a time of judgment for Israel's sin. Did God still have good purposes for His people during this time? Does God have good purposes for every situation that I confront in my life?
6. When I consider how I have approached this time of crisis so far, have I mainly been trying to "muddle through" or have I been using it as a time to reset my priorities and practices?
7. When I consider the list of ways (in key point 4 above) I might use this as a time of reset, which one is the Spirit speaking to me about? How can I practically work to redeem the quarantine by following the Spirit's lead to make changes in this area? Is there someone I can ask to hold me accountable as I seek to obey the Spirit in this area?
8. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?