October 4, 2026 God Can Use You Jeremiah 29:10–13; Matthew 13:1-9

"For I know the plans I have for you…plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Today is World Communion Sunday, when we celebrate the unity of Christians around the world as one big family in the Lord, participating in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we are commanded to do in His remembrance.

Today also marks the start of our stewardship conversations, an encouragement to recognize the importance of our commitments to God's mission in our locality and beyond through the giving of our time, treasure, and talents. Our focus for the few weeks leading up to our Commitment Sunday on October 25th will be **a series called No Limbs, No Limits, inspired by the life of Nick Vujicic—a man born without arms and legs who has traveled the world, sharing the hope of Jesus Christ with millions**. Over the next few weeks, we're not just going to learn about his story—we're going to wrestle with what it reveals about our own lives.

Because when you look at a story like that, it forces you to ask a deeper question: What can God do with a life that is fully surrendered to Him? Not partially surrendered. Not occasionally surrendered. Not when it's convenient or comfortable. But fully surrendered.

Jeremiah 29 is written to people who feel stuck, displaced, and discouraged. They are in Babylon—far from home, far from comfort, far from what they expected life to be. Yet into that place of exile, God speaks a word of hope and a word of calling. And here is the stewardship truth at the heart of this passage: **God can use you—even here, even now, even in this season.**

Stewardship is not about having more; it is about offering what you have. It is not about being in the perfect place; it is about trusting the God who meets you where you are.

God can use you even in seasons that feel like Exile (v. 10). God tells His people, *"When seventy years are completed… I will come to you and fulfill my good promise."* They are not where they want to be. They are not doing what they hoped to do. Yet God says, *"I am still working. I am still present. I am still able to use you."*

Many of us know what exile feels like:

- A job that drains you
- A diagnosis that frightens you
- A relationship that wounds you
- A season that confuses you

But exile does not cancel calling. Your circumstances do not limit God's ability to use you. **Stewardship begins with availability, not ideal conditions.**

God can use you because God's plans include your participation (v. 11). We love Jeremiah 29:11—*"For I know the plans I have for you…"* But notice this: God's plans are not passive. They involve His people stepping into what He is doing. God's plans include your gifts. God's

plans include your time. God's plans include your generosity. God's plans include your influence. Stewardship is not about what God wants *from* you; it is about what God wants *for* you. He invites you to participate in His good plans.

Your life is not an accident. Your gifts are not random. Your resources are not meaningless. God has woven them into His purpose. **Nick's life did not begin on a stage**. It did not start with a microphone, a global audience, or public recognition. It began at home, where his parents shaped his identity, grounded him in the Scriptures, and taught him **that he was created on purpose, not by accident**, and that his identity was rooted not in his circumstances but in God's truth.

God can use you when you seek Him with your whole heart (vv. 12–13). God says, "Then you will call on me… and I will listen." "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." **Stewardship is a heart posture before it is a financial practice.** God uses people who seek Him, listen for Him, and surrender to Him. **The question is not, "Do I have enough?" The question is, "Am I available?"** God does not need your perfection—He desires your surrender. He does not ask for part of your heart—He asks for your whole heart. And when you seek Him wholeheartedly, He uses your whole life.

God can use what you have, where you are, Right Now. Earlier in Jeremiah 29, God tells the exiles: *Build houses. Plant gardens. Seek the peace of the city.* In other words: **Use what you have, where you are, for God's glory.**

That is stewardship. Not waiting for a better season. Not waiting for more resources. Not waiting for perfect conditions.

God can use:

- Your story
- Your struggle
- Your gifts
- Your time
- Your generosity
- Your presence
- Your obedience

Everything you have is something God can use.

A Stewardship Invitation. Jeremiah 29 reminds us that God's people were not waiting to be used—they were invited to be used *now*, even in exile. And so are we.

You don't need more talent. You don't need more confidence. You don't need a different season. You don't need a different story. Remember how Nick, despite having no limbs, is impacting the world! What is holding you back?

You need only to place what you have in the hands of the God who says, **"I know the plans I have for you."** Stewardship is simply saying: **"Here I am, Lord. Use me."**