

## Upside Down

Read Jeremiah 24

**Reflect:** What's the problem with equating good fortune, prosperity and pleasant circumstances with blessings from God? And conversely what is the problem with equating difficulty, struggle and pain as lack of blessing?

- What does verse one tell you about what was going on with Israel at that time?
- How does the vision of the figs change the way we might think about those who are taken into captivity and those who get to stay in Jerusalem?
- God says that he is going to regard the exiles as "good" v5. What might that mean? What promises does God make to the exiles?
- How is God's watching in v6, different from the references to his watching on 1v12, 7v11?
- What can we learn from the experience of the exiles that can help us experience God's blessing in difficult times/
- How might those who escaped captivity have felt about themselves, the exiles and God? v8-10
- The experience of good fortune now doesn't always reflect ultimate reality. What wisdom can we draw from this act of God's judgment?
- God's ultimate act of judgment that turns everything upside down is the resurrection. How does that affect the way Christians are to consider the terrible experience of death and the struggles of this life?

*These questions are to be used as a follow up in small groups, with friends or for personal reflection to the teaching at 8pm on YouTube every second week.*

*Next Passage: Jeremiah 25 v 15-38*