

Indiana Winter Retreat
January 13-15, 2017
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How to Thrive When No One Likes You
Lecture 1: Proximity

1. Introduction (Psalm 60)
 - a. Nobody likes us
 - b. Apostasy, not secularization (Proverbs 30:7-9; Luke 8:7, 14)
 - c. Realistic, not apocalyptic or progressive
 - d. Repentance and reform, not revolt or retreat
 - e. Huddle up

2. Life in Babylon
 - a. Jeremiah 29: overused and often abused ... (Jeremiah 29:4-7)
 - b. Jews in Babylon: densely packed neighborhoods
 - c. A case for dense geographical settlements of Christians

3. Why There Are “Little Italys”
 - a. What counts as “dense settlement”?
 - b. Why is dense settlement common for minorities? (see Acts 18:1-4)

4. Taleb and Antifragility
 - a. Introducing Nassim Nicholas Taleb ...
 - b. *Fragile* to *robust* to *antifragile*
 - c. Implications of Taleb’s thought ...
 - d. The “barbell”
 - e. Dense settlement is robust or antifragile; dispersed settlement is fragile

5. Proximity and Christian Duties
 - a. Mutual care
 - i. Easier to help Christian friends get work or get an apartment
 - ii. Easier to practice hospitality
 - iii. Easier to discover and meet each other’s pressing needs
 - iv. Easier to take on large cooperative projects

- v. Easier to stage collective actions
 - b. Evangelism: gardens, not frontiers
 - c. Mercy (more later)
 - d. Imagine
6. The Grocery Store Rule
 7. A Case for “City” Living
 - a. The proven pattern of human life
 - b. Robust to shock
 - c. We have absorbed cultural values: space, isolation, security, physical privacy ... and worse
 8. What I am not suggesting
 9. Seeing and Being the Good City
 - a. Christians have insight into what makes a good world, and a good city.
 - b. Biblical models: Zechariah (Zechariah 8:3-5)
 10. The Proximity of Christ
 - a. The Gospel Dimension (Psalm 126:4-6)
 - b. Jesus Christ was sent from heaven to earth like an exile (John 1:14; 12:24; Romans 15:7; Hebrews 13:12-13)

Further Reading:

Herbert Gans: *Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian-Americans*

Jane Jacobs: *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Leon Krier: *The Architecture of Community and Drawing for Architecture*

David Maranz: *African Friends and Money Matters*

Charles Murray: *Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010*

Nassim Taleb: *Antifragile and The Black Swan*