

Let's Worship God

5th-10th August 2024
Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 42:18-25 - The Unprofitable Servant

We see the character of the unprofitable servant in verses 18-20. God addresses this servant directly in verse 18. He is still called 'my servant'. He is still responsible before God, but he is naturally unable to do what he is responsible for. We're familiar with this sort of thing. Anyone who enters into an automobile to drive it, for example, is responsible to drive safely. But if the driver be impaired because of too much alcohol, or because of drugs, or for some other reason -- an impaired driver is just as responsible as any other driver, but is unable to exercise that responsibility. Just like with driving a car, so it is spiritually -- ability and responsibility are not the same thing. And so, though the servant of God here is responsible before God, the servant is unable to perform his work because he has sinfully hindered himself. The trouble is not that somehow God withholds. The trouble is that the servant has gotten himself into this position by his own sin. That is the way it is with all of humanity.

The unprofitable servant is consecrated, set apart from the world, set apart to God, to His use, to His glory. He is supposed to have been sent by God as a witness to the nations. But he has failed in his mission. He sees many things. He knows what goes on. But there's no inward, true union with Christ. They've seen, but they don't perceive. Christ isn't seen by them. Their lives do not conform to their profession. And what characterizes them but blindness and deafness, spiritually speaking?

God honors his name despite the servant's unfaithfulness. We see that in verse 21. He will have His law to be seen as great and glorious, not something to be held in contempt, not something to be despised. And if the servant will not live by the law, God will judge him by the law, as we see here in verses 24-25.

The problem is sin. The problem is not listening, not heeding. The disasters are the result of sin. And the people of God confess their sin, and as they turn away from their sin and turn to their covenant God in Jesus Christ, there is the way of escape. But until that happens, there are hard times coming. That is what God says through Isaiah to the people of his day, and our God has not changed.

Questions

1. What is the unprofitable servant like?
2. What will happen to him?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would keep you from being an unprofitable servant.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1

Praise: Psalm 116 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 43:1-4 - The Only Saviour of Israel

God is now looking to those who fear, understandably, that God is altogether done with Israel. But no, that is not the case. All that was talked about before in Isaiah 42 is a warning to those who are the hypocrites, and are not really changed in heart. They have real reason to fear their destruction. But for the people of God, the true ones, the ones whom God in mercy has changed their hearts, they must see that while affliction is to come, it is for a different purpose.

This God who was speaking to them has worked for Israel in the past. He is in covenant with her -- a covenant which cannot be broken. He is the one who has chosen His people, who has delivered His people, and who will bring them to everlasting rest. He has set his love upon particular people within the Covenant of Grace. If you be in Jesus Christ, you particularly have been known by Him since before the foundation of the world. And despite your sin, you have been loved; loved before time. And because of that love, God has given His only begotten Son that you might live. He has done this for the true Israel of God in the days of Isaiah, and all his people, Jew and Gentile, to this day.

We go on to see what the Saviour promises to do in the future for Israel. The Saviour is saying, 'Waters, perhaps deep waters lie before you, and fire is in the way. But as I've done in the past, so I will do in the future. Through them I will protect you.' The true people of God are not guaranteed immunity from difficulty or affliction. In fact, it's quite the opposite. You and I, who are in Christ, are promised affliction. But God is with His people to protect, preserve, and bring them through.

Why does the Saviour do this? The people of God are precious to Jesus, more precious than jewels, more precious than gold or silver, precious to Him like His own body. Why does God save Israel and value his people so? We can't really say, except that it shows forth His glory.

Questions

1. What promises are there in these verses?
2. Why does God value His people?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the love of Christ for His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Praise: Psalm 117 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 43:5-9 - The Only Saviour of the World

Again in verse 5 we see God saying, 'Fear not.' God is constantly saying, 'Fear not.' In all that God has spoken, in all the things that he has brought to pass, He remains in control. He is bringing about His eternal, His holy, and His unchangeable plans to bless those whom He has taken to Himself in the Covenant of Grace. He has given all into the hands of His King, whom He has set upon Zion's hill, who rules over all things from heaven as the Mediator. There is no need to fear.

These verses look to our own day - when people have been brought from the south, the north, the east, and the west, they've been brought from afar to be part of the people of God. They are sons and daughters, indeed of God, born not of a physical lineage, but born by the Word of God and by the Spirit, born again by the Saviour's grace, children of God.

In verse 7 we see what God has done for the world. These from the nations have been created by Him. And in His decree, in His everlasting plan, He formed them and made them and set them in a particular context, so that they would be saved, and they would fulfill all His holy will. Every circumstance of your birth, every circumstance of your rearing, the times, the places, the people who have moved in and out of your life, all have made you what you are today, and have made you, believer, to be one whom God plans, has planned, and continues to plan to use for His own glory. And He does this for people all over the world.

What has God done, and what will God do for the nations? Well, they who were blind, now, by God's power and grace, are the ones who see. They are given eyes, and they look to the Saviour and live. And those who were deaf hear the joyful sound of the gospel. And instead of fleeing from the living and true God, they gather before Him, and they confess that their idols were utterly useless. God's love from eternity is on the true Israel of God, composed of all who believe on His Son. You are His witnesses of His goodness, of His grace, and of His glory.

Questions

1. Why do we not need to be afraid?
2. Who is the true Israel of God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is saving people from all nations.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Praise: Psalm 118 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 43:10-13 - The Everlasting Saviour

We see Jesus as the everlasting Saviour in these four verses. God says, 'Because of the change I have made in your hearts, because of my sovereign grace, delivering you through my Son -- you are my witnesses. You have seen, you have experienced, you have been enabled to speak of my grace.' These are the ones delivered from darkness, delivered from death, who now can and do testify to Jehovah's greatness, grace, and glory. They are no longer the people of sin. They are no longer the people of Satan. They are no longer the people of despair and death. But they are the people of God.

Unlike the idols who have been formed by the hands, minds, and hearts of men, God is unformed. He has always been the Triune God of Scripture. He is the only One there is. There is none else.

God stands to his covenant, God stands to his grace that He has bestowed from eternity. And though we stumble, though we fall, though we do foolish, stupid, and wicked things, by times, He changes not. Our love to Him waxes and wanes, because we are changeable, fickle, weak creatures, even though we are redeemed. But His love, His covenant purposes do not change because He Himself does not change. His purposes to save do not change.

God had spoken and delivered. God alone had done this. Thus it's obvious that Christ is indeed able to do all His holy will. It's not like we have some God who wishes us well but can't really do anything about it. No, He is able to do all his holy will, for He has expressed it before and brought it to pass. Furthermore, they are witnesses, and you are too, that He is not only able, but He is willing to do all His holy will. Despite all the power and all the plotting, all the strength, and the cleverness, and the lies of those who hate Christ, and who hate you, His people, despite what seems sometimes to our own eyes and to the eyes of others to be impossible odds, God delivers His people. God saves His people. King Jesus rules and nothing can stop Him. Nothing is able to thwart Him or His holy and gracious purposes.

Questions

1. What promises do we have here?
2. What do these verses tell us about Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the love of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 1 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 43:14-21 - Merciful Deliverance

We have seen throughout this chapter God's marvelous work of deliverance. We have seen Him shown very plainly as the Saviour, the Saviour of Israel, the Saviour of the nations, and now we see Him doing great mercies. What is mercy? Mercy is kindness. Mercy is help. Mercy is pity, given to the miserable, and often those who don't deserve it. This is certainly the case with the mercy of God, because what we deserve is something entirely different than what we receive. In dealing with man, God shows mercy, for we deserve nothing good. And God gives many good things even to sinners, even to reprobate sinners.

When we talk about merciful deliverance we are talking about being rescued from the hands of enemies and from the consequences of sin. There is to be merciful deliverance in the short term from the Assyrians. But there is other merciful deliverance as well. God is merciful in giving Himself to them. He delivers Israel for her sake. What does that mean? That somehow Israel deserved this? Not at all. It's not due to the loveliness of God's people. It's due to the everlasting loving of the Father given in covenant in Christ. This gives hope, because His mercy to His people is rooted in his holy and unchanging character, not our weakness.

God says, 'Look at the past.' Look at the past there in verses 16 and 17. They are to remember their deliverance from Egypt. But then God says, 'Look away.' The emphasis changes from deliverance from Egypt and Babylon, to a great deliverance indeed. God will be doing a new thing. A day of deliverance was coming, when all that the prophets spoke of and all that the priests and their works symbolized would come to full reality in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the new thing. We see merciful deliverance here from a far greater enemy than the Egyptians, Assyrians, and Babylonians. We receive merciful deliverance from the last enemy, death, and the greatest enemy, sin. Come to Him, and you will certainly find merciful deliverance!

Questions

1. What is mercy?
2. What are these verses looking ahead to?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the mercy you have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 2 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 43:22-28 - Merciful Forgiveness

Now we look at God's merciful forgiveness. When forgiveness is spoken of, that assumes there is some need for forgiveness. Forgiveness implies sin. God had told the people long ago, through Moses, how they were to worship Him. But Israel, despite all that God had done for her, said, 'I don't want to fool with this. It's too much trouble. I must spend too much money on all the animals that are needed for the sacrifices. And it takes up all my time. I've got better things to do. I'm sick and tired of it.' That's why God is talking about the fact that they weren't calling upon Him, and they were weary of Him. They were not seeing that all the bounty and blessing that they had, the protection that kept their enemies round about from getting to them, all of that came from a God who was kind. They didn't want to see their sin. And so they did not consider that they needed forgiveness.

Sin must be paid for. The burden of the guilt must be placed on someone. Our Lord Jesus is burdened with the weight that you and I have placed upon Him, and He has been wearied with my iniquity and yours. We go on to read in verses 25 and 26 what comes of Christ being burdened and being wearied. There is no removing our sin by our somehow making it good. That is impossible. But when God in mercy forgives us because of what Christ has done for us in His life, death and resurrection, our sin, that black, disgusting sin, is blotted out. God says that He remembers it no more. Now, why does He do this? It is only for His own sake. God is saying in verse 26: 'You have nothing to say for yourself. But in the covenant of grace, you have much to plead. Set before me the salvation that I have given to you, so that you are declared not guilty, for Jesus was declared guilty in your place.'

Verses 27-28 show that Israel is not beloved because of anything in their past. No, Israel is beloved despite everything in their past. They were dragged off to Babylon, so that they would learn that devotion to idols was devotion to slavery, and that sin brought misery, that true freedom was only found in the living and true God. God gave forgiveness through the blood of Christ who would come. He did this in His grace and mercy. And He still does it for vile, disgusting sinners today.

Questions

1. What does forgiveness imply?
2. Who bore the weight of our sin?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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