

Beaverton Foursquare
Sunday A.M. 1/11/15
Going Deeper (2)
Pastor Randy Remington

Going Deeper Part 2 “Waiting On the Lord”

Introduction

This week we continue our study on going deeper with God, in our understanding of him and in our relationship with him.

- In part one we studied Psalm 90 and how God is our dwelling place
- We learned that our home, our dwelling is not a place but a person
- We realized that our time on earth is but a vapor and we need to live this short period in light of eternity

In the first 39 chapters of Isaiah it's all about judgment.

- In Isaiah 40, it's all about hope, salvation and restoration
- It's about coming home, being reassured that he hasn't forgotten

Next week, we will look at waiting on the Lord.

- Waiting is often very difficult, but God will use these seasons to deepen our faith
- We can misinterpret these times as “God doesn't care or has forgotten”
- But these can be periods of time where we're not just passing time, but a season of trust and learning about God
- We are not waiting on something, but someone, it's about who

Main Text

Isaiah 40:1-31

1) The Voice of the Lord

*“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. **2 Speak tenderly** to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her, that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the **LORD's hand** double for all her sins.”*
(Isaiah 40:1-2)

*“A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low, the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”** (Isaiah 40:3-5)*

*“A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. **7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”** (Isaiah 40:6-8)*

Our Shepherd, calls his people out of exile and bondage with a *tender voice*

- The voice of one calling in the wilderness has a present purpose and meaning for those coming out of exile

- The voice of one calling in the wilderness has a present purpose and meaning for those coming out of exile
- Knocking down barriers, making the paths straight...the King is coming
- But it also has a prophetic/future meaning as John the Baptist becomes that voice preparing the way for King Jesus

So what does his voice sound like?

- A voice of authority, like he's in charge
- It's being heralded, things will take place, the King is coming..."This is what I want to do"

2) The **Hand** of the Lord

*"...that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the **LORD's hand** double for all her sins."
(Isaiah 40:1-2)*

This could be misunderstood in a negative sense, but it is actually a wonderful promise of what God has for us.

- The scripture is telling us that our sin has been paid for in *Double Payment*
- A lot of us only live with a single payment mentality, we have been forgiven, pardoned.
- The death sentence has been rescinded, but some of us still live under a cloud.
- The message is, yes we have been *pardoned*, but we've also been *accepted*
"Double Payment" = pardoned and accepted.
- When someone looks up our "record" it is good, clean, nothing there.
- Not understanding the double payment can cause us to live a very surface life.
"You won't go deeper than your understanding and acceptance of the truth"
"Satan knows your name but calls you by your sin, God knows your sin but calls you by your name"

3) The **arms** of the Lord.

*"You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and **he rules with a mighty arm.***

*See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: **He gathers the lambs in his arms** and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." (Isaiah 40:9-11)*

Go to the high places, shout with a loud voice the Lord is coming with *Power* and *His Reward*

- We are his reward; do we see ourselves this way?
- His mighty arm extended is a display of his strength and power. But our mighty God is a shepherd who gathers us in those strong and secure arms.
- He gathers us, lifts us up and carries us "*close to his heart*".
- Could God have given us a clearer picture of his strength and might and how that relates to us, his sheep...his reward, amazing!

*"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the ever-lasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;³¹ but those who hope (**wait upon**) in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)*

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More to come...

Life Group Sermon Application Curriculum Leader's Guide

Week of 01/11/15

"Going Deeper Part 2" (Waiting on the Lord)

I was working day shift patrol on the south end of Beaverton. I heard tones come over my police radio, which is a sign that something bad is happening, usually involving a weapon. In a nutshell, an armed, angry estranged husband drove his car through the garage door of a house where he believed his wife was and he was now inside the house and shots were heard. When I arrived he was still in the house so we began to evacuate the houses on this small cul-de-sac. The only people home were right next door, the occupants were very aware of what was occurring and they were terrified. I scooped up a two to three-year-old boy with one arm telling him that I would protect him, while I held a shotgun in the other hand. As we carefully walked to safety, surprisingly he put his head on my shoulder, didn't make a sound and held on very tightly. Thankfully, the suspect surrendered peacefully and was arrested without incident. It would be about three years later I would be teaching a class at Hiteon Elementary School and a boy in the class kept insisting that he knew me. At that point it dawned on me who he was, we hugged and recounted that day.

As we go deeper in our study of Isaiah 40, we will find a strong, mighty and powerful God who speaks tenderly to us. He reaches down to us with his mighty arm in our helpless condition and brings full restoration to our lives.

Main Sermon text: (Isaiah 40:1-31)

There are some consistent themes, and key points, that emerge from these passages:

- God is calling his people out of exile and bondage with a *tender voice*. He is a powerful, mighty God, but he is gathering his lost sheep tenderly.
- The voice of one calling in the wilderness is being heard, the barriers are being knocked down, the paths made straight...the King is coming. This also points to John the Baptist who will be that voice preparing the way for King Jesus who will set us free from our bondage.
- How will his voice sound, it is a voice of authority, he's in charge, he is the King the mighty ruler who speaks to us tenderly.
- Our sin has been paid for from the Lord's hand in *Double Payment*. We have been *Pardoned* and *accepted*, the death sentence has been rescinded, but there's more- we are accepted and our record is clear, spotless.
- The Lord is coming with *Power* and we are "His Reward". His mighty arm extended in a display of his strength and power. But our mighty God is the one who gathers us in those strong and secure arms and carries us "*close to his heart*".

Discussion questions/prompts for your group: (These questions are designed to help your group go deeper, understanding and applying the Bible passage(s) and the sermon)

- Both in the New and Old Testament we are told that we will know the voice of God and our Shepherd Jesus. (John 10) At times it may be difficult to hear him or even believe that he would speak to us, especially when we have failed in some area of our lives. Certainly God will correct us, even discipline us, but the picture that is

and our Shepherd Jesus. (John 10) At times it may be difficult to hear him or even believe that he would speak to us, especially when we have failed in some area of our lives. Certainly God will correct us, even discipline us, but the picture that is given to us in Isaiah 40: is one of a God who is tenderly calling them/us out of our bondage. What thoughts come to your mind as we read and discuss the tender voice of God calling us to restoration and wholeness?

This may be difficult for some to discuss because of past failures or something that is going on currently. We must believe that he cares for us in our sin and failure (no matter what we have done) he is still calling. This discussion question may find its conclusion in the "Double Payment" discussion, which Pastor Randy pointed out, was the most crucial piece to understand.

- The voice calling in the wilderness demonstrates the dual or multi purpose and meaning use of scriptures. Obviously it has purpose for those coming out of exile and heralding that the King is coming. But it also has prophetic, future purpose, as John the Baptist will become this voice in the wilderness announcing the coming of King Jesus to set us free. As you read verses 3-8, what grabs your attention?

There may be many insights, allow your group members to read verses 3-8 and share. But these verses show us that God speaks, he isn't some detached superior being out there somewhere. Also this world and our lives on this earth are so temporal, but his word will never pass away.

- In verse two we are introduced to the phrase "Double Payment". As we studied this we begin to understand that it has to do not only with the *pardon*, but also with being *accepted*, your record is clear, clean and spotless. Discuss what areas of you life this affects, touches. How can this limit our lives if we just walk in the pardon and never move into acceptance?

This is very important for us to understand and implement in our lives. God wants us to understand that we are forgiven and he has led us out of bondage. But he has a new life for us to live, that begins with our understanding of our acceptance and who he has made us to be in him.

- As you read verses 9-11, how do you respond to the fact that you/we are his reward? Also as we read about his mighty his outstretched arm, what are your thoughts as he reaches to us, gathers us and carries us "close to his heart"?

Everyone in our group needs to understand how powerful and mighty he is, coming in power, ruling with a mighty arm. But when he relates to us, he is tender and caring and we are secure in arms. Some in our groups may only know the mighty God, others may only know the tender side, we need to go deeper and know him in his fullness.

For those who might like to use visual aids in their Bible storying, or study preparation, especially for groups with children, here are some helpful links:

<http://www.raisingourkids.com/coloring-pages/printable/bible/index-02.html>

Log on and check "Right now Media" there are several good resources that will relate to this study for the kids. Some are for pre-school and older, so go surfing and see if you can find something for your group.