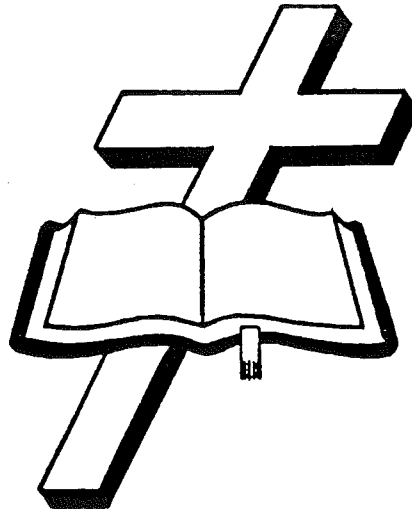


REMEMBERED BY GOD

(How God Is The Lifter Of My Head)
Isaiah 49:1-26



WE ALL HAVE BEEN...

- ◆ Reminded Of Jesus' Feelings
- ◆ Restored Through Jesus' Provisions
- ◆ Remembered On Jesus' Hands
- ◆ Removed By Jesus' Power

“Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands” (Isaiah 49:16)

Bill Kirk

“REMEMERED BY GOD”

Text: Isaiah 49:1-26

Subject: “How God Is The Lifter Up” Of My Head”

Introduction

1. Isaiah 49 is a passage all about Jesus.
 2. It is Jesus speaking (through Isaiah) about His ministry to come.
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- #1. In v. 4 Jesus laments, “I’ve spent my life in vain” (And we discover)
 - ◆ How to overcome a Spiritual Burnout
 - #2. In v. 9 Jesus says He’ll feed us in barren places. (And we discover)
 - ◆ How to be encouraged in a Spiritual Desert
 - #3. In v. 14 the believer cries out, “the Lord has forgotten me”. (And we discover)
 - ◆ How to be assured of a Spiritual Encounter
 - #4. In v. 25 Jesus says, “Even the captives shall be delivered”. (And we discover)
 - ◆ How to experience a Spiritual Breakthrough

Question: How many of you want to be protected from spiritual burnout?

Question: How many of you want to know what Jesus does when you’re in a desert season?

Question: How many of you want to know how to be sweet when you feel forgotten by God?

Question: How many of you want to see Jesus deliver people from the power of sin?

(Let’s Look At 2 things About This Jesus In Vs. 1-3)

- #1. Jesus is supernatural in His origin to touch us
(V.1) “The Lord hath called me from the womb” (Means)
 - ◆ Jesus was born of God to the Virgin Mary. (No surprise on Christmas Day)
 - ◆ Jesus was designated from birth to touch people like you and me.
 - #2. Jesus is supernatural in His ability to touch us
(V. 2) “The Father has made my mouth like a sharp sword and made me a polished shaft”
Question: What does it mean that Jesus would be a sharp sword and a polished shaft?
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- #1. “His mouth like a sharp sword” (Means)
 - ◆ That when Jesus speaks, His words will be able to penetrate our hearts like a sharp sword.
 - #2. “Made me a polished shaft” (Means 2 things)
 - ◆ “Polished” means “clean” and “pure” ◆ “Shaft” means “arrow”
Jesus (born of the Virgin Mary) as a “Polished shaft” means:
 - #1. Jesus will pierce the heart like a sharp arrow pierces (and)
 - #2. Jesus will polish (or clean and purify the very heart that He pierces).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus will cut through all the veneer and outer-coating (and)
- ◆ Jesus will then cleanse, purify or polish the heart that He pierces.

Question: Why does Jesus desire to pierce our hearts?

(To Reveal To Us 4 Things)

I. We’ve Been Reminded Of Jesus’ Feelings (Vs. 1-5)

(Look at the Words of Jesus lamenting)

(V. 4) “Then I said” (Said what?)

- ◆ “I have labored in vain”

- ◆ “I have spent my strength for naught and in vain” (In other words)
- ◆ Jesus laments the little success He thought He had on earth.
- ◆ Jesus felt as though He had little fruit for His toil and labor.
- ◆ Jesus was opposed, rejected, resisted, unaccepted, unappreciated and un-rewarded by man.

Question: How do you keep going and overcome spiritual burnout when:

#1. You're strength is exhausted (and) #2. You see little fruit from your labor?

Question: Pastor, how do I stay motivated?

Question: Pastor, How do I remain faithful at teaching, serving, ushering, laboring, and volunteering?

Question: How do I overcome burnout when I feel used up and my labor is in vain?

(In Verses 4 & 5) The 2 Cures For Spiritual Burnout

#1. (V.4) “I’ve labored in vain, yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God” “Yet surely my judgment is with the Lord” (Means)

- ◆ “My cause is done as to the Father”
- ◆ “My reward will come from Jehovah God”
- ◆ “My toil and suffering will be honored by God”

“My Judgment Is With The Lord” (Means)

- #1. You know that your reward will come from God.
- #2. You know that your labor is seen by God.
- #3. You know that your work is to be judged by God.

(Why So Important? Because....)

- ◆ You’ll not have to avenge yourself when offended,
- ◆ You’ll not have to pout when injured, or sour when resisted. (Why not?)
- ◆ Because you know you’re doing all you do as unto the Lord. (He sees you)
- ◆ And, you know the Father is the One you live to please.

(The 2 Cures For Burnout)

#1. You do all that you do unto the Lord, knowing He is the One who will judge (and)

#2. **You do all that you do by leaning upon the strength of the Lord:**

(V5B) “...And My God shall be My strength” (this is Jesus talking)

#1. He knows God is His judge (but) #2. He knows God is His strength.

Question: Pastor, how do I get strength from God?

Answer: Isaiah 40:31 (because burnout is another name for prayerlessness, which is giving out more than you take in! Review Luke 10:38-42)

II. We’ve Been Restored Through Jesus’ Provisions (Vs. 6-12)

(V.5) Reveals the call of God today, going out to your heart:

“...To bring Jacob again to Him, though Israel be not gathered”

- ◆ This is Jesus wanting to recover the Jews to pure worship again.
- ◆ “Jacob” refers to Israel (and Jesus wants to restore them to His side).

In (v.5), the word is “gather” (v.6) “restore” (v.7) “choose” (v.8) “preserve”

- ◆ It is a picture of Jesus wanting to gather us close to Him.
- ◆ It is a picture of Jesus reaching out to those distant.

- ◆ It is a picture of Jesus calling your name to come close, come back and turn around.
 - ◆ It is a plea to be on guard against looking for love in all the wrong places.
- Question:** But pastor, don't I have to travel here, try this, go there, escape to a greener pasture?
- Answer:** (V.9) is an awesome revelation to us:
(V.9B) "...they shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.
- ◆ The words "Shall feed" refer to abundant supply and provision by God!

Question: But pastor, where does God supply?

Answer: (V.9), "Their pastures shall be in the high places"

- ◆ The high places were not the places for food. (They were destitute of vegetation)
- ◆ The high places were barren, unfruitful and had no pasture.
- ◆ The high places were desolate hills with hard and strong ground.

(Jesus says "We'll Be Fed In The High Places) (Or)

- ◆ That in those seasons and deserts where there should be no provisions to sustain you (your hard places, void of helping hands)
- ◆ In those very desolate places, the Lord Himself will be your source of joy and provision.

(In other words)

- ◆ At times when you least expect it watch out, for Jesus is up to something.
- ◆ When you are weak (you'll be made strong).

(So Much So)

- (V.10) "You'll not hunger or thirst" "The heat won't smite you"
"You'll find mercy and direction" "Springs of water will sustain you"

"The Heat Will Not Smite You" (Means)

- ◆ Jesus will be greater than what life can ever do to you. (Repeat)

(So Much So)

- ◆ In (v.11) "I will make all my mountains a way" (or a level road)
Question: What's it mean when Jesus says, "Mountains will come down and missing highways will be exalted?"

(Jesus Is Telling Us)

- ◆ "I'll make your mountains level before you"
- ◆ "I'll remove any obstructions in the way"
- ◆ "I'll be responsible Israel, to get you from Babylon back to Jerusalem.

(In Plain Vanilla)

"Chill out, fret not, rest easy and cool down" (Why?)

- ◆ Because God is responsible to get you where He wants you to go (and)
- ◆ God is responsible to remove the obstacles and finish what He starts in you!!!
#1- We are Reminded of Jesus' Feelings
#2 - We are Restored through Jesus' Provisions

III. We've Been Remembered On Jesus' Hands (Vs. 13-17)

Question: How many of you have ever been forgotten by someone?

Question: What had Israel forgotten for a moment?

(V.13) "For the Lord hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon you"

Question: What was Israel singing?

Answer: The Hee-Haw song of (v.14) "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me"

Question: Ever feel this way in between a rock and a hard place?

Question: How does Jesus respond in (v.15)?

"Can a woman forget her newborn child...they may forget, yet will I not forget you"

Question: Pastor, how can I be sure that God will not forget me (and His plan for my life?)

Answer: (V.16) "Behold I have graven thee on the palms of my hands"

◆ The word "Graven" means: "To cut into" ◆ "It signifies "Permanence of memory"

◆ It means Jesus had your name cut into the palms of His hands at Calvary's Cross.

Question: But pastor, I don't deserve for God to remember me. (V.13B) "He will have mercy"

◆ That is what Calvary was all about.

◆ That is where God's justice was satisfied for you.

◆ That is where mercy rescued you and me.

◆ That is why it is possible to approach a Holy God!

#1 – We are Reminded of Jesus' Feelings

#2 – We are Restored and Refreshed in those barren places

#3 – We are Remembered on Jesus' hands.

IV. We've Been Removed By Jesus' Power (Vs. 18-26)

(V.24) "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?"

(This Is Easy to Understand (It's Awesome))

◆ The (prey and captive) is Israel (God's people)

◆ The mighty are the Chaldeans!

(Israel Is Simply Asking)

"Will the Lord be able to free us from the grasp of the enemy?" (What does Jesus say in v. 25?)

#1. "The prey of the terrible (or, Israel in Babylon) will be delivered".

#2. "I will contend with him that contends with you"

#3. "I will save"

◆ It is a picture of Jesus at Calvary!

◆ It is Calvary where crucified hands freed us.

◆ It is Calvary where Jesus delivered us from our captor.

◆ It is Calvary where grace meets law and justice, and we are freed from satan's power.

◆ It is Calvary where satan lost his legal right to enslave you any longer! **(In Other Words)**

◆ As God delivered Israel from Babylon,

◆ So God has delivered us from sin's power.

(Why All The Fuss?)

(V.26B) So "all flesh will know that Jesus is the only Savior and only Redeemer"!!

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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