

“RESTORED”

AND

“RENEWED”

(The Causes And The Cures Of A Weary Spirit)

Isaiah 40:27-31



THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

- ◆ **The Despondent Heart (v. 27)**
- ◆ **The Dependent Heart (vs. 28,29)**
- ◆ **The Delivered Heart (vs. 30,31)**

“O Israel, How Can You Say That Your Way Is Hid From The Lord? How Can You Say That God Is Not Fair? They That Wait Upon The Lord Shall Renew Their Strength”

(Isaiah 40:27-31)

Bill Kirk

“RESTORED AND RENEWED”

(The Causes And The Cures Of A Weary Spirit)

Text: Isaiah 40:27-31

Subject: How God Transforms Weariness Into Joyfulness

Introduction

(The Book Of Isaiah Is Known As The Gospel Of The Old Testament)

1. Isaiah began his ministry about 740 B.C.
2. He would minister for 60 years and die a martyr.
3. His major thrust of preaching was the power of God.
 - ◆...How God delivers in temporal circumstances (and)
 - ◆...How God delivers in spiritual circumstances.
4. Isaiah's name means: "Jehovah Is Salvation".
(Isaiah Deals With 4 Kinds Of Salvation)
 - ◆ Judah's salvation from the attacks of other nations.
 - ◆ Judah's salvation from the Babylonian captivity.
 - ◆ The future salvation of the Jews.
 - ◆ The personal salvation of every sinner who receives Jesus.
5. Isaiah's message was preached at a critical time:
 - ◆ Moral conditions included drunkenness, idolatry and religious prostitution.
 - ◆ Social conditions included the rich taking land illegally and forcing home owners out through extortion and eviction.
 - ◆ Government conditions saw the judicial system corrupted (as bribes were taken under the table to favor the wealthy).

(But Most Of All)

- ◆...Isaiah had an encouraging word for God's people who were taken captive into Babylon.
- ◆...His message would both guide and comfort the exiles during and after their 70 year captivity.

(In Chapters 1-39)

- ◆ Isaiah gives the condemnation for Israel's sins (39 chapters of rebuke and confrontation to convict).

(In chapters 40-66)

- ◆ Isaiah gives the condemnation (an encouraging word).
- ◆ It's a 27 chapter love letter from Isaiah 40-66.
- ◆ The Jews are about to leave captivity in Babylon.
- ◆ They've thought much about their past failures and future uncertainty.
- ◆ They are about to leave Babylon and return to a ruined Jerusalem.
- ◆ They'll rebuild and make progress (but they need a timely word from the Lord)

(And This Message Today):

#1...Is a timely word from the Lord to your heart.

#2...Is a word as timely now as it was when Isaiah preached it.

(But Pastor, I Don't Deserve A Word From The Lord)

Neither Did Israel - But God Said in (Vs. 1 & 2)

(v. 1) "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people"

(v. 2) "Speak comfortable to Jerusalem and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins"

(What A Revelation Of The Heart Of God)

#1. "Comfort ye, comfort ye," is a sign of yearning from the pulsating heart of God.

#2. "We have received double for all our sins" is an awesome revelation of where believers stand with God.

- ◆ When there was a mortgage on a house in Israel, a legal document was nailed on the doorpost for all the neighbors to see.
- ◆ A second copy was kept by the one who held the mortgage.
- ◆ When the debt was paid, the second copy, or the carbon copy, was nailed over the other doorpost so all could see the debt was paid.
- ◆ This is the meaning of (v. 2) "She has received double for all her sins".
- ◆ The sins of Jerusalem were seen as paid for by the One who would suffer on the cross.
- ◆ The sins of you and me are now seen as paid for by the One who suffered on the cross.
- ◆ It means the debt we incurred that alienated us from God has been satisfied:

#1. God has done everything that needs to be done.

#2. We had a mortgage that needed satisfying.

#3. We had a debt we couldn't pay.

#4. But God (in His mercy) placed the carbon copy on our hearts for all to see.

#5. It's nailed to the door post (the heart) of every believer and says, "**Paid In Full**"

Ask: How many of you believe (it's comforting to know) that your sins have been forgiven?

Ask: How many of you believe that Jesus has pardoned your iniquity?

Ask: How many of you believe that your debt has been paid and God is not against you?

Ask: How many of you believe it's an encouraging word to know that regardless of who you are, where you've been, or what you've done, God has nailed your debt to an old rugged cross?

- ◆ It's the starting point of being restored and renewed.
- ◆ It's the gateway to everything good.
- ◆ It's the beginning and the basis of all that God is wanting to do.
- ◆ It lets you know that God is for you and not against you.

(This Morning)

"The causes and cures of a weary spirit (or)

"The transformation process of eagle winged believers" (or)

"How God transforms weariness into joyfulness"

Question: How many of you have ever been weary in well doing?

Question: How many of you have ever asked, “Why Me”?

Question: How many of you have ever experienced a delay in answered prayer?

Question: How many of you have ever heard these whispers of the enemy to your soul:

- ◆ “God is not involved in what happens to you”
- ◆ “God doesn’t see what happens to you”
- ◆ “God isn’t fair in the way you’ve been treated”
- ◆ “God has missed some things along the way”

(This Morning: 3 Pictures Of A Heart Transformed)

I. The Despondent Heart (V. 27)

“Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, my way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? (or)

“How can you say that the Lord doesn’t see your difficulty or is unfair in His treatment of you?”

(What’s The Dilemma In V. 27?)

- ◆ Isaiah sees the people of God in captivity.
- ◆ He sees their afflictions and temptations.
- ◆ He sees Israel going through troubled waters.
- ◆ He sees the Jews in captivity facing invasion after invasion by the Assyrian army.
- ◆ And he hears the people of God begin to utter discouraging words.
- ◆ Isaiah sees how the Hebrew exiles handle their dilemma and it isn’t good.

Question: What does Israel say when tested and tried?

Answer: Two things that lead to weariness in (v. 27).

#1. “My way is hid from the Lord” (or)

- ◆ “The Lord has forgotten me”
- ◆ “The Lord has deserted me”
- ◆ “The Lord has left us all alone”
- ◆ “The Lord has hid His face from me”
- ◆ “The Lord has rejected us because of past failures”

Question: Have you ever been tempted to say these?

Question: Ever felt this way in deep water?

Question: Ever wondered where God was when in the midst of a personal crisis or affliction?

Question: Ever been overwhelmed with a sense of Divine desertion (when God seemed far, far away?)

#2. Israel said, “My judgment is passed over from my God” (or)

- ◆ “God, you haven’t been fair”
- ◆ “God, you let the Babylonians get away with this”
- ◆ “God, you’ve waited 70 years before intervening”
- ◆ “God, you’ve overlooked some things”
- ◆ “God, you didn’t smite the Assyrians who deserved to be smitten”

Question: Why did Israel become weary in spirit?

Question: Why did Israel become despondent?

Answer: Because they were deceived by two lies.

- #1. They thought that God didn't know where they were.
- #2. They thought God had missed some things that were done to them.

◆ And the result was a spiritual despondency.

Question: What led to these 2 temptations that Israel yielded to (and became depressed)?

- #1. Israel became impatient in captivity (have you)?
- #2. Israel had answers to prayer delayed (have you)?
- #3. Israel was detoured from their plans (were you)?
- #4. Israel remembered past failures (do you)?
- #5. Israel couldn't see God in their dilemma (do you)?
- #6. Israel felt a Divine desertion (do you)?
- #7. Israel felt there was an absence of Divine retribution (ever felt this way - that somebody got away with something)?

Guess What?

- #1. Your way isn't hid from the Lord (never was and never will be) Job 23:10 **"He knows the way that I take"**
- #2. Your judgment hasn't been passed over by God (God keeps score, so you forget it; no one pulls the wool over His eyes) Hebrews 4:13 **"All things are naked and open to the eyes of the Lord"**
- #3. If you're impatient, chill out (because the Lord's schedule and timing is perfect towards you) Psalms 31:15 **"Your times are in His hands"**
- #4. If you've been detoured, delayed, disappointed or despondent it's normal to experience it (but it's not God's will to remain in it) Psalms 30:5 **"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning".**

Question: Pastor, how can I trust God's heart when I don't understand His hands?

Question: Pastor, how can I trust God's providence, when I don't understand His present plans?

Question: Pastor, how can I overcome all weariness when I'm disappointed and lose hope because of what I see?

II. The Dependent Heart (Vs. 28, 29)

Question: How did Isaiah address those who needed to be restored and renewed?

Question: What did he tell them about the Lord that delivered them from low living and a bad attitude?

Question: What was the news that lifted their spirit (and all of the people of God)?

(News You Can Depend On In Vs. 28 & 29)

#1. God is never discouraged (v. 28)

"Don't you know, haven't you heard, that the Lord fainteth not..." (which means)

- ◆ No fainting spells or weak moments.
- ◆ No erasers to correct any mistakes.
- ◆ No ceasing of Divine activity in your life.
- ◆ No moods, bad days, or errors in the plans for your life.

#2. God is never tired (v. 28)

“...neither is weary”

- ◆ In (v. 30) even the young at times grow weary (but not God)
- #1. God never gets weary of running the universe.
- #2. God never gets weary of hearing your prayers.
- #3. God never gets weary of ordering your steps.
- #4. God never gets weary of comforting your heart.
- #5. God never gets weary of preserving your life.
- #6. God never gets weary of forgiving sin.
- #7. God never gets weary of healing bodies.
- #8. God never gets weary of restoring families.
- #9. God never gets weary of receiving praise.
- #10. God never gets weary of seeing you respond at an altar of invitation.

#3. God is never at wits end (v. 28)

“...there is no searching of His understanding”

- ◆ He never has the nervous jitters.
- ◆ He is never perplexed or without a plan.
- ◆ He is never without reasons for what He does.
- ◆ He never has a need for a plan “B”.
- ◆ He always knows what's best for you.
- ◆ He always has an answer to the dilemma.
- ◆ He is worthy to be trusted because He knows much more than we do.

#4. God is never selfish (v. 29)

“He gives power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength”

- ◆ This power is not for the strong (but the weak).
- ◆ It was for the Israelite who was losing hope of ever seeing Jerusalem again (rebuilt and restored).
- ◆ It is for every believer who is here in need this hour.

(Power And Strength (Energy From God))

- #1. For the one who has lost the joy of living:
 - ◆ No brightness in your countenance.
- #2. For the one who lives on the edge:
 - ◆ With areas of life still unsundered.
- #3. For the one facing temptation:
 - ◆ As sin keeps presenting itself to you.
- #4. For the one who has been wounded or offended:
 - ◆ And needs power to forgive and go on.

III. The Delivered Heart (Vs. 30, 31)

Question: What caused the despondency of God's people?

Answer: Entertaining 2 thoughts:

#1. Your way is hid from the Lord (and)

#2. God is unfair towards you.

Question: How does Isaiah address it?

Answer: By getting your heart to depend on this truth.

- ◆ God is never discouraged!
- ◆ God is never tired!
- ◆ God is never at wits end!
- ◆ God is never selfish!

Question: What happens when a despondent heart becomes dependent upon a faithful God?

Answer: That man or woman begins to live like an eagle.

(And Is Delivered From Low Living)

The Cause And Effect

#1. The Cause: "They that wait upon the Lord"

The word "wait" means:

- ◆ To expect.
- ◆ To place.
- ◆ To patiently submit.
- ◆ To depend upon.
- ◆ To look away from self to God.
- ◆ To draw close to.

#2. The Effect: "Shall renew their strength"

(What happens to waiting believers) who draw close to God?

Effect #1. You mount up with wings as eagles (or) your perception changes.

- ◆ The eagle has incredible eyesight (so)
- ◆ Believers who draw close to God see better.
- ◆ Your elevation increases spiritual perception.
- ◆ You mount up higher than earthly affections.
- ◆ The higher you go the purer the air and the better you see.
- ◆ Why live like a turkey when you can fly like an eagle?

Effect #2. You run and are not weary (or) your perseverance changes.

- ◆ You run, or march forward into battle with perseverance and endurance.
- ◆ You find strength to overcome obstacles.
- ◆ You despise the words "quit", "drop out", "stop" and "withdraw".
- ◆ Your heart is restored and renewed and recommissioned to persevere to the end.

Effect #3. You walk and don't faint (or) your patience changes

- ◆ Walking here refers to fortitude and patience under affliction.
- ◆ It's the grace you receive from living close to Jesus that enables you to patiently endure without fainting in the day of battle.

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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(Altar call)