

LIFE Group Discussion Questions
Isaiah 40:1-5
Dec. 6-12, 2009

Summary – A wonderful passage of hope and grace. Israel was presently in rebellion against God (except for a faithful remnant), and Isaiah has been warning them that judgment and captivity is coming. In fact, In Ch. 39 Isaiah reveals that it will be Babylon, that will come in and take them away (39:6). With the backdrop of this doom and gloom, Isaiah begins a new section that takes off with fantastic words of comfort and hope of what is to come. In spite of their sin, He is still their God and will come to them and deliver them from their enemies. This was partially fulfilled in the return from exile, but more truly fulfilled in the coming of Christ (preceded by the voice crying in the wilderness, John the Baptist, symbolized in v. 3), who was the revelation of the glory of God in the flesh. “And we beheld His glory...full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Here God offers them peace, pardon, grace abundant (2), and the revelation of His glory, upon condition of repentance and faith (3-5).

General questions:

1. What grabbed your attention the most?
2. What was the big idea?
3. Any questions that arose for you?

Specifics:

4. What's comforting about this passage?
5. What do we learn about the grace of God in this passage? About His disposition toward His people?
6. Let's review the main ideas from the message:
 - a. We are called to announce the same message of comfort to our friends and neighbors. We are His messengers in the world today.
 - b. We must examine ourselves to see what obstacles are in our heart that keep Him from coming to us.
 - c. We must repent, forsaking these obstacles and making room for Him in our hearts, in order to experience His glory.
7. Now let's consider some apps from those:
 - a. Who was a John in your life?
 - b. Who are you serving as a John for now?
 - c. In what ways do your neighbors need comfort?
 - d. What obstacles exist for our neighbors as they consider Christ? (3 broad types: content, congruence, commitment – what specifically...)
 - e. Do you agree that repentance precedes glory? How did that happen for you?
 - f. What do the words desert, mountain, valley, rough ground, rugged terrain(v. 3-4) tell us about ourselves? (or our condition?)
 - g. What obstacles have we erected to keep Jesus away?

Prayer suggestion: Pray for any neighbors that you may be forerunning for, and for their obstacles to be dealt with(removed) in due time.

Rabbit Trail of the week: Why are the people of God addressed as Jerusalem in v. 2?