

Isaiah 40:1-11 The Comfort of the Gospel

This text is the turning point of the book of Isaiah. For 39 chapters Isaiah has proclaimed the judgement of God upon the sin of Israel, and without repentance promises exile. Now even before the exile begins Isaiah turns to a note of hope and comfort which ultimately points the end of exile and hope found in Jesus, the promised Messiah.

Read Isaiah 40:1-11

1. (vs. 2) The first note of comfort Isaiah strikes is one of forgiveness. In the sermon Tim spoke of double forgiveness. Not only does God in Jesus bring us the promise of putting aside all our sin but also adding to us everything that Jesus has won for us on the cross. What does Jesus win for us on the cross, and what would be the impact on our lives if we trusted the fullness of double forgiveness?
2. (vs. 3-11) In the ancient world when a King was coming to a town in his realm a messenger was sent ahead (a voice in the wilderness) inviting the people to prepare. Part of the preparation was road work. Isaiah is announcing that a King is coming. From the passage name as many qualities and attributes of the character and reign of this King?
3. In light of those qualities what would we expect his kingship to look like in our lives?

(5-8) In these verses Isaiah is comparing the glory and word of the Lord with earthly things. Earthly things wither, fade, diminish, but the glory and the word of the Lord stands forever.

4. **Read Romans 1:18-25.** Paul says that what sits at the heart of the problems of this world is that we exchange the glory of God for earthly things. We were created to find our worth, significance, identity purpose in God and God alone – but we have exchanged that to find our worth, significance, identity and purpose in earthly things. What will be the impact on us, our relationships, our world when we make this exchange?
5. (5) Jesus is the glory of the living God that is revealed. What will be the impact on us and on our lives if we root our sense of self, identity, significance, worth and purpose in Jesus and his work?