



P.C.E.A SUKARI PARISH

A Bible Study Guide on
EXILIC HOPE

THEME:

“Fear not for I am with you”

Isaiah 43:1(b)

PREFACE

Last quarter we addressed the matters of reforming our actions and ways. The reforms in many areas of our lives have made us better people in the kingdom. There was a promise that God will be with us. This season, God is taking us through a journey of three months with a theme of “fear not I am with you” Isaiah 43:5a.

We will be going through the book of second Isaiah. The book of Isaiah is divided into three; Isaiah of Jerusalem from chapter 1-39, second, Isaiah from Chapter 40-55, and third, Isaiah from chapter 56-66. This season, we will study Isaiah 40-55. For personal reading and bible study. These chapters of Isaiah talk about the experience of the children of Israel in exile and the encouragement of hope that they got. I welcome you to a journey of standing courageous and strong amidst great threats.

This season of COVID 19 has been seen by many contemporary theologians as a state in exile. The experiences that people are going through, being alienated from their families, friends, church members and fellowship, has been realised. Many livelihoods have been affected and it is no longer business as usual. Just like the children of Israel were in exile, and needed encouragement, this season, hope is required since it is very easy for one to give up and loose hope. This theme comes in handy to tell us to fear not for God is with us.

Your Pastor and friend

John Calvin Kamau

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LESSON

1

THEME INTRODUCTION

'Fear not' is mentioned 365 times in the Bible, seemingly once for each day in a year. There will be circumstances and instances that will make us fear in life. God has assured us that He is with us and we therefore need not fear.

However, it is important to note that there is also positive fear which the Bible calls 'awe', which is associated with respect to God and people in authority. It is this kind of fear that the Bible encourages.

The focus of this lesson is the kind of fear that holds us back in life. It is this fear that we are learning to overcome.

1. What does Isaiah 43:1-5 state about fear?

2. Which promises does God give us in Isaiah 41:10-14 when we face fearful situations?

3. What effect does fear have on us? Genesis 3:10; 1 Samuel 17:11; 1 Samuel 13:5-7

4. What is God's instruction to His people in the following verses? (Jeremiah 7:2-3, 5-7; Joel 2:12-14)

5. What can drive away fear from us? 1 John 4:18, Joshua 1:7-8

Memory Verse

Isaiah 43:1b NIV "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

Notes

LESSON

2

THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES

Many Christians find themselves in a spiritually barren desert place at some point in their lives. Everything feels dry and they tend to feel like nothing is bearing fruit. The question most people have when they're led into a desert experience is why. Some lose hope and others give up their faith.

In this topic, we explore the promise of God in Isaiah 43:19b promises to "make a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland". Here, we see a perfect assurance that all is not lost. Sometimes God uses our wilderness experiences to awaken our hearts to hear. In fact, the word for "desert" in Hebrew means "the place of speaking". In this study, we shall explore some practical tips and lessons we can learn in our own wilderness experiences.

1. In what ways did God "make a way" for the Israelites while in the wilderness? (Deuteronomy 8:1-5, Exodus 13:21-22, Exodus 17:4-6)

2. According to Deuteronomy 8:2-3, why did God lead the Israelites through the wilderness?

3. What was the conduct of the Israelites in Exodus 17:1-7 regarding their wilderness experience?

4. What assurance do we get from Isaiah 43 in our wilderness experiences? (Vs 2 and 19-20)

5. Have you ever found yourself in a wilderness experience? What lessons did you learn with regard to the character of God?

Memory Verse

Isaiah 43:19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Notes

LESSON

3

DISCERNING THE WORKING OF GOD

Discernment is one of the most important gifts a Christian can have in our world. "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" Isaiah 43:19. Many times when God is upto something, we fail to recognize it. In today's life, the enemy has brought confusion so that we may not perceive or discern God's work. However, the Lord has given us the gift of discernment through the Holy Spirit in us. In this lesson we will study how to discern the working of God.

1. How can we as Christians perceive what God is doing in and around us? (Jeremiah 29:13, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10,14, Isaiah 30:21)

2. From the Bible, in what ways did Abraham demonstrate discernment?

3. What are some of the precautions we should take in our journey of discernment? (1 John 4:1, Acts 17:11, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15)

4. What do you understand about discernment from these scriptures Romans 12:2 and Matthew 16:3?

5. What do we learn about the working of God from the story of Lazarus and the anointing of David as King? (1 Samuel 16:7-8, John 11:21, 32)

6. Are there times in our lives when the Lord works/is in our presence that we are not able to perceive? Share an experience.

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 2:10 These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Notes

LESSON

4

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Love is an integral part of every person's life. We all desire to be loved, and more so to be assured of this love. As Christians, there are moments we are tempted to feel like Christ's love has vacated our lives. At such times we really need the assurance of God's love. Paul writes to the church in Rome to give them this assurance.

In this lesson we look at the nature and consistency of God's love.

1. What are some of the things listed in Romans 8:35-37?

2. What are the things mentioned in Romans 8:38-39 that cannot separate us from the love of Christ?

3. In suffering, what lessons do we draw from the following passages regarding God's love? (Romans 8:36, 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, Lamentations 3:22-23)

4. What situation or circumstances in your life have occasionally threatened your conviction of the love of Christ?

5. How have you managed to continually hope in God's love despite going through painful experiences?

Memory Verse

Lamentations 3:22 Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

Notes

LESSON

5

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Many Christians claim that they are born again because they have been forgiven their sins. The paradox of their statement and their behavior is that, most of them harbor bitterness and resentment because they have not been able to forgive others who have wronged them. We have been called to forgive and live a life free from bitterness and hatred. In this study we shall look at the assurance of forgiveness from God.

1. What makes one come boldly to the throne of grace? (Hebrews 4:15, 1 John 1:8-9, Romans 8:1)

2. What is the promise of God concerning forgiveness of our sins? (1 John 9: 8-9; Romans 8:1)

3. What do we learn about forgiveness of sins from these passages? (Isaiah 1:18; Luke 15:21-24)

4. As children of God, how are we expected to extend forgiveness to others from the following passages?(Mark 11:25, Colossians 3:13, Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 23:34)

5. Share an experience where forgiveness looked impossible and how you finally achieved assurance of forgiveness.

Memory Verse

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Notes

LESSON

6

STREAMS OF LIFE: ASSURANCE OF PROVISION

The word of God is full of inspiring assurance of how God provides for His people. The sovereign God is fully aware of our needs but He requires us to come to Him with every need and care instead of worry and fear.

The streams of life generally point us to the provision of God. In this week's lesson we shall explore some of God's promises and assurance that He is a caring God.

1. What "New" thing does God promise to do for His people? (Isaiah 43:19)

2. Why should we not be anxious about our needs? (Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:31-33, Matthew 7:7, Psalm 34:9-10, 2 Corinthians 9:8)

3. How has God provided for His people in the past?
(1 Kings 17:5-6, Genesis 22:8-14, Exodus 16:13-15)

4. What positive steps will you take to replace fear with faith in God's providence? (Hebrews 13:5-6, Matthew 6:33,7:7, Philippians 4:6)

5. a) In which areas of your life have you doubted God as your provider and why?

b) Share a situation where you have personally witnessed God providing for you.

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Notes

LESSON

7

GOD'S ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

The life of a Christian is characterized by challenges, problems and issues that often cause threat. Such challenges come in various dimensions such as threat by enemies including experiences like illness, battle, depression, lack, attacks and trials among others. The scripture depicts a victorious life which also means being overcomers. The Greek translation for "overcomer" literally means "victor." It is equivalent to phrases like "to conquer", "to have superiority" or "to have victory". It also sometimes means "to defeat" depending on the issue at hand. The word of God assures Christians of victory. In this lesson, we shall take a deep look at the source and the role of a Christian in securing victory.

1. What forms of victory did God promise the children of Israel in the passages in Deuteronomy 28:7; Isaiah 54:17; Psalms 44:5?

2. What is the source of our victory? (Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14, Exodus 15:1)

3. What should be our response when God gives us victory?
(Psalms 118:15; Judges 16:24; Psalms 50: 15)

4. What assurance do we have from God when we go through
struggles and battles of various forms? (John 16:33; Psalms 91:
3-7; 1 John 5:4; Deuteronomy 20:4)

5. What is your role in securing victory during struggles or
challenges? (Psalms 25:2; 2 Chronicles 24:20; Exodus 23:20-23)

6. Share an instance, battle, challenge, or struggle you are facing
and what you intend to do after this lesson.

Memory Verse

Romans 8: 37 NIV "No, in all these things we are more
than conquerors through him who loved us."

Notes

LESSON

8

RESILIENCE

"Tough times never last but tough people do." This is resilience, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. Jesus said that in this world we would have tough times but He would always be with us through it all. Resilient Christians look past their troubles and put their minds on Christ. In this lesson we explore what the bible teaches about resilience.

1. What does the scripture tell us about resilience in Philippians 4:11-13 and John 16:33?

2. What do we learn about how to attain resilience from the following scriptures? (Joshua 1:9; Ephesians 6:10-14; Psalms 62:8, 2 Corinthians 4:17)

3. What should a resilient Christian's attitude be in tough times? (Habakkuk 3:17-19, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; 1 Thess 5: 16-18, Job 1:21-22)

4. What should we do in tough times? (Exodus 14:13-14; Psalms 50:15; Philippians 4:6-7)

5. Have you been through a particularly tough time? How would you assess your resilience in that situation?

Memory Verse

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Notes

LESSON

9

FOCUSING ON WHAT IS AHEAD

The children of Israel were in exile in Babylon when God was telling them these words in Isaiah 43:18-19. In addition to focusing on a future redemption through the Messiah, God wanted them to know that He would one day get them out of their present situation and lead them back to their promised land.

Today, there are challenges in the world and also in our individual lives, it is possible to dwell in the past and lose hope. Others may be tempted to focus on their own strength or depend on their talents, connections, or wealth to get them through.

However, God is calling us to focus on Him, because even in all the uncertainties, He is “doing a new thing”. In this study, we hope to discover the new things that God is doing and how we can focus on God in all of life’s challenges.

1. What is God asking His people to forget in Isaiah 43:18-19?

2. In your context, what do the “wilderness and wastelands” in Isaiah 43:19 stand for?

3. According to Philippians 3:12-21, what goal is Apostle Paul pressing on towards?

4. In Philippians 3:17, Paul asks the Philippians to follow his example. How is Paul an example in focusing on what is ahead as opposed to his current situation and how can we apply that lesson in our daily lives?

5. What attitude will you develop as you go through each challenge in your life and how can you focus on what is ahead?

Memory Verse

Philippians 3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

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