

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study

“RENEWED HEARTS”

For individual study or group discussion

As we continue with our *RENEW* sermon series, this week’s passage in Isaiah 63:7-19 recalls the original exodus out of Egypt. The prophet Isaiah directs the Jews in exile to look back and remember the “steadfast love of the LORD” and his “great goodness to the house of Israel” (v. 7). Earlier in the chapter, Isaiah pointed them forward to the eschaton exodus, where the Lord will rescue his people from their enemies once and for all (vv. 1-6).

As we corporately pray for *renewed hearts*, let us remember, repent, and return again to our compassionate, covenant-keeping God. But how can LMPC experience renewal?

True renewal in the hearts of God’s people comes as we recount God’s covenant love and mercy in salvation (vv. 7-9). Note how Isaiah calls on God’s people to remember. Even in the midst of suffering, we are to recount his covenant love and the salvation we have obtained through Christ Jesus (cf. Hebrews 2:1-4).

- Read Deuteronomy 1:30-31 and 7:6-16. Recall how we utilized the book of Deuteronomy as a generational guidebook for covenant renewal. Based on today’s passage and our previous studies in Deuteronomy, what happens when God’s people remember their identity and respond obediently to his law?
- God’s people never outgrow their need to be reminded. Read 2 Peter 1:3-15. What qualities should our church reflect to our community? Make it your prayer that we as a church will “stir each other up” to remembrance.

True renewal in the hearts of God’s people comes as we lament our rebellion and embrace the kindness of God’s discipline to bring us to repentance (vv. 10-14).

Instead of trusting in God’s steadfast love and mercy, God’s people often forget and wander away from the protective pastures of their Good Shepherd. We rebel against his abundant provision. And as a result of our rebellion, he disciplines us (v.10). But in his discipline lies the kindness of a father.

- Read Psalm 30:5. Looking at Isaiah 63:10-14, describe how God’s favor can be present in his discipline (cf. Proverbs 3:12).
- Isaiah warns God’s people that their rebellion will grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 10). In Ephesians 4 Paul gives the church the same warning, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.” Paul calls believers to put off the “old self” by the renewing of their minds (vv. 22-23). When we refuse to put on the “new self,” we too grieve the Holy Spirit. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. In what ways have you resisted the work of renewal by the Spirit? Take a few minutes to confess and lament.

True renewal in the hearts of God’s people comes as we cling to his covenant promises and cry out for his mercy in our failure (vv. 15-19).

The chapter ends with the prophet’s prayer for mercy and pleas to God for restoration and renewal. Isaiah reminds God of his covenant promises, and asks the Father to “return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.” As you cry out to God for your own renewal, use *Daniel’s Prayer* as your model this week, and note how it echoes Isaiah’s lament (Daniel 9:3-19).



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: October 16, 2022

SPEAKER: Chad/Aaron

SERIES: Isaiah: RENEW

PASSAGE: Isaiah 63:7-19

Family Dinner Table

Pray the Gospel

taken from Mark Vroegop’s book,
Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy

“Psalm 77 concludes with the ultimate moment that defined the people of Israel and their relationship with God: the exodus. The psalmist remembers the defining moment in Jewish history as God demonstrated his faithfulness and love...For the Christian, the exodus event—the place where we find ultimate deliverance—is the cross of Christ. This is where all our questions—our heartaches and pain—should be taken. The cross shows us that God has already proven himself to be for us and not against us. The apostle Paul even quotes a lament, Psalm 44, before proclaiming that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:36-39). The promise for Christians is glorious as it is deep: Jesus bought the right to make everything right.

Even if we are ‘killed all day long’ or are ‘like sheep going to the slaughter,’ nothing—no sorrow, no disappointment, no disease, no betrayal, not even death—can separate us from God’s love.”¹

- Read Psalm 77. Have you ever felt the desolation that pain and suffering bring? According to the psalmist, how do we meet God in our pain (vv. 10-20)?
- Take time this week to cry out in lament to God. Confess your sins, share your heartaches, embrace his kindness, and cling to his promises.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Chattanooga Fellows Program,
supported partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Eowyn and David Stoddard, supported
MTW missionary partners

¹ Vroegop, Mark. *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy. Discovering the Grace of Lament*. 2019. Wheaton, Illinois. Crossway. 36-37.