

Turning Point
December 20, 2020
Fireside Room and www.facebook.com/fpcbillings
Isaiah 40



Opening Prayer

Devotional: Isaiah 40:27-31 using Lectio Divina

Remembering Isaiah:

1. He lived around _____ and was a prophet for about 70 years.
2. Like Elijah and Jeremiah, Isaiah was a _____ who spoke on behalf of God.
3. He lived during the fall of the _____ Kingdom in 722 BC by the Assyrians.
4. He predicted a number of things such as:
 - a. The Babylonian captivity of Jerusalem in _____ BC (Isaiah 5).
 - b. The _____ would come in the form of a child (Isaiah 9).
 - c. The Messiah would come from the line of _____ David (Isaiah 11).
 - d. The Messiah would be a _____ servant (Isaiah 53).
5. Isaiah was a _____ to many during a very dark time.
6. Isaiah offered a _____ and consistent message of hope.
7. Isaiah has the special gift of being firm and yet _____.
8. Isaiah offers good news in that:
 - a. God will lead his people back to _____.
 - b. God cares for his people and will _____ them.
 - c. God is like a _____ and will guide us.

A Turning Point

1. Isaiah 40 seems to provide a turning point of _____ in the Bible
2. Isaiah speaks words of comfort, _____, and compassion to the people in Israel.
3. There are three _____ that speak in Isaiah 40 (verses 3, 6, and 9).
4. Isaiah 40 reads like a _____ with many questions and answers. (Similar to Paul's letter to the Romans).

Listening to Voices:

1. There are a lot of voices that vie for our _____. Think about some of the voices who have been important in your life.
2. There are voices of discouragement, _____, and disappointment.
3. There are also voices of hope, encouragement, and _____.
4. Tucking a few verses away in the memory bank:
 - a. "The grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of the Lord stands forever." (v. 8)
 - b. "He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." (v. 11)
 - c. "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (v. 31)

Sharing Your Voice with Others:

1. Our words can have a tremendous _____ upon others.
2. John the Baptist was a voice for God in _____ for the coming of Jesus.
3. Isaiah's voice was _____ for the people of God.

Finding Strength for the Journey: Verses 26-31

1. It is easy to become _____ with life.
2. When you feel like you are isolated, it is easy to lose _____.
3. People of _____ ages and abilities will lose strength.
4. We need to go back to the _____ of God's resources to find strength.
5. When we put our hope in the Lord, we will find the strength to _____ forward.

Take Aways:

1. Life is so much better when Jesus takes the _____.
2. Not every day is lollipops and _____.
3. Like Isaiah and John the Baptist, be a _____ of encouragement to others.

Closing Thoughts and Prayer