



Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on December 10th, 2023

Isaiah 40:9-31 (NASB)

9 Go up on a high mountain,
Zion, messenger of good news,
Raise your voice forcefully,
Jerusalem, messenger of good news;
Raise it up, do not fear.
Say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

10 Behold, the Lord God will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.
Behold, His compensation is with Him,
And His reward before Him.

11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs
And carry them in the fold of His robe;
He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
And measured the heavens with a span,
And calculated the dust of the earth with a measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,
Or as His counselor has informed Him?

14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding?
And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge,
And informed Him of the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
Nor its animals enough for a burnt offering.

17 All the nations are as nothing before Him,
They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

18 To whom then will you liken God?
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

19 As for the idol, a craftsman casts it,
A goldsmith plates it with gold,
And a silversmith fashions chains of silver.

20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering
Selects a tree that does not rot;
He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman
To prepare an idol that will not totter.

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
And spreads them out like a tent to live in.

23 It is He who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.

24 Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.

25 "To whom then will you compare Me
That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Raise your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who brings out their multitude by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you say, Jacob, and you assert, Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"?

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.

His understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives strength to the weary,
And to the one who lacks might He increases power.

30 Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,

31 Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

DIGGING DEEPER

Remember a time you were at a sporting event, special rally, or something similar where someone or a team was being hyped up before they entered the arena or room... What was the crowd supposed to feel? What did the venue do to try and create that kind of atmosphere?

Read Isaiah 40:9-11

"Here is your God!" - How is God described in these verses and what feelings are we supposed to get from this description?

Read Isaiah 40:12-17

What impact does vs 12 have on the audience's understanding of God's power?

In what ways does recognizing God's wisdom provide comfort and reassurance, especially in the face of challenges and uncertainties?

Read Isaiah 40:18-24

What are some modern-day idols that Americans struggle with?

Has anyone been able to stand up to our God? Give some examples...

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Isaiah 40:25-31

Verse 26 highlights the vastness of the created universe and God's ability to call each star by name. What does this imagery communicate about God's knowledge and care for us?

What does it mean to "wait on the Lord" in practical terms?

If our God is beyond challenge and comparison, why are believers frightened and intimidated by the empty challenges of our day?

If our God is the most secure winner on all fronts, why are we so hesitant to commit ourselves and all that we have to him and his cause?

TAKING IT HOME

PRAYER REQUEST

