

Isaiah – Longing for Home – Isaiah 43:1–13

Opening Reflection

1. If someone asked you, “*Who are you?*”, how would you answer?
 - What parts of your life shape your sense of identity the most? (family, work, relationships, achievements, failures, etc.)
 - Do you ever feel like you are in an “identity crisis”?
-

We Belong to God (vv. 1–3)

2. In verse 1, God says, “*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*”
 - What does it mean to you personally that God calls you by name?
 - How is being **redeemed** different from simply being **created**?
 3. Verse 2 promises God’s presence through waters and fire.
 - What are some “waters” and “fires” you have walked through?
 - How have you experienced God’s presence in those seasons?
-

We Are Loved by God (vv. 4–7)

4. God says, “*Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.*”
 - How easy or difficult is it for you to believe those words are true about you?
 - Can you think of a time when God pursued you in love, even when you were running or hiding?
 5. Verses 5–7 speak of God gathering His people from every direction.
 - How does this passage point forward not just to Israel’s return from exile, but also to the global gathering of God’s people in Christ?
 - What hope does that give us for our ultimate “homecoming”?
-

We Find Our Identity in Knowing God (vv. 8–13)

6. In these verses God sets up a courtroom scene, exposing idols as powerless.
 - What are some “idols of identity” that people (including us) are tempted to cling to today?
 - Why are they inadequate compared to God’s call on our lives?

7. Henri Nouwen wrote, *“Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the Beloved.”*

- In what ways do you struggle with self-rejection or false labels?
- How does Isaiah 43 correct those lies with God’s truth?

8. Verse 10 says, *“You are my witnesses.”*

- What does it mean to be a witness to God’s identity and His work in our lives?
 - How does knowing whose we are empower us to live differently in the world?
-

Personal Application

9. Priscilla Shirer says, *“The only one who has the right to give you your name is the one who gave you life.”*

- Whose voices have you allowed to define your identity in the past?
- What would it look like to begin living fully as who God says you are—precious, honored, and loved?

10. Francis Chan reminds us that God has no identity crisis—He is great and deserves the center of our lives.

- How can recentering our identity on God’s greatness (not our own smallness or failures) change the way we live?
-