



Sermon Notes 9/24/23

“God’s Constant Compassion”

How should we respond to God’s compassion?

1. Let’s _____ God’s help first.

Isaiah 30:1-2

Isaiah 30:19

2. Let’s _____ God’s instructions.

Isaiah 30:9-11

Isaiah 30:20-21

3. Let’s _____ of our sins.

Isaiah 30:15

2 Kings 18:16

Romans 2:4

4. Let’s _____ God’s grace now.

Isaiah 30:18

Luke 13:34

2 Corinthians 6:2

Acts 22:16



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 27: September 24 – October 1

Isaiah 30

In the first chapter of his book, Isaiah describes God as a heartbroken parent with rebellious children (Is. 1:2-4). Just as loving parents sacrifice their time and energy to raise their children in a safe and healthy home, so also God spent centuries pouring His love into His children, protecting them, and providing for them. After Israel received all those blessings from God, they ignored Him, rejected Him, and refused to obey Him. And yet, God did not give up on them. He continued to reach out to them with compassion and discipline, inviting them to come back to Him as His dearly loved children. In chapter 30, Isaiah again describes God as a heartbroken parent reaching out to His rebellious children. In this passage, we see just how constant God's compassion is for His rebellious children. We also see how we should respond to God's compassion.

Read Isaiah 30

1. Why did God describe Judah as “obstinate”? (30:1)
2. Who did the leaders of Judah go to when they wanted protection from the Assyrian Empire? (30:1-2)
3. What did God predict about the alliance Judah made with Egypt? (30:3-5)
4. The Negev is the desert region south of Judah. Why did Isaiah write an oracle about the dangers of traveling through the Negev? (30:6-7)

Terry Briley notes,

In order to illustrate the folly of trusting in Egypt, Isaiah delivers a sarcastic oracle depicting the dangerous and fruitless journey of a Judean delegation in their vain search for deliverance.

Travel through the barren Negev south of Judah would be difficult because of both the climate and the dangerous animals they might encounter. The envoys carry their riches to profit a nation which can offer them nothing in return.¹

¹ Terry R. Briley, *Isaiah: Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 34.

5. What did Isaiah call Egypt in verse 7? Why?
6. Why did God tell Isaiah to write this message on a tablet or a scroll? (30:8)
7. Why did God describe Judah as “rebellious”? (30:9)
8. What did the leaders of Judah say to the prophets (such as Isaiah) who were telling them the truth? (30:10-11)
9. What would the people Judah get for rejecting God and holding on to their sin? (30:12-14)
10. What did God tell His people to do to find salvation and strength? (30:15)
11. What did the people do instead of following God’s plan? (30:16-17)
12. What does the Lord long to do for His people? (30:18)

John Oswalt writes,

So what is God’s course of action in the face of this reality? Will he wash his hands of them? Will he abandon them in a fit of well-justified rage? No, in one of the greatest statements in all of Scripture, he says that since Israel will not wait for (trust in) him, he will have to wait (NIV “longs”) to be gracious to them. He “rises” from his throne—not to bring final destruction but to show “compassion.” Because he is a “God of justice,” those “who wait for him” will never be disappointed. Those who wait for the nations will be disappointed again and again because they are serving themselves and not the causes of right and truth. But God will unfailingly do what is right, and we can depend on him, no matter what. Thus, Isaiah presents the picture of the Creator of the universe patiently standing, waiting for us to discover what fools we have been and to turn back to him to receive the grace and compassion that are in his fatherly heart.²

13. How do you respond when you read in the Bible that “the LORD longs to be gracious to you”? (30:18)

² John N. Oswalt, *Isaiah: The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 346.

14. What would God do when His people finally cry to Him for help? (30:19-26)

15. Who are the teachers Isaiah talks about in verse 20?

This is probably an example of a dual-fulfillment prophecy. Ultimately, the Teacher who will deliver God's people is Jesus Christ. However, God wants the people living in Isaiah's day to come to their senses and listen to the teachers He has already given them (Is. 30:9-11).

Briley observes,

The spare diet of adversity and affliction with which God has fed them will last only as long as it takes to open their eyes to legitimate teachers such as Isaiah. These teachers are not presently hidden in a literal sense, but the people do not possess eyes to see them. God will also open their ears so that they will hear a voice telling them which way to go. Moses had told Israel in Deuteronomy 30:11-14 that one need not "ascend into heaven" or "cross the sea" to gain access to God's guidance. Instead, "the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it." Isaiah does not promise each person a personal, private revelation from God, but a renewed ability to hear what God has clearly been saying all along. Instead of telling the prophets to "leave this way" (v. 11), they will welcome the words, "this is the way."³

16. How did Isaiah describe the way God would rescue His people from Assyria? What is *Topheth*? (30:27-33)

Topheth was a place in the Valley of Hinnom (*Gehenna*) where people sacrificed their children to Molech. The word "*topheth*" means "place of burning."

17. How has God shown His constant compassion to us?

18. Why does God continue to show compassion to rebellious people?

19. How can we encourage people to listen to the Lord's instruction?

20. How will you respond to God's compassion this week?

³ Terry R. Briley, *Isaiah: Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 40.