



The Desperate Cry of Our Intercession: “We Need YOU!”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Isa 63:15-19; Hos. 11:8-9; Rom. 7:18-25; Is. 62:6-7; Deut. 4:20

There are moments in our walk with God when we become painfully aware of our own weakness. We look at our repeated failures, our inconsistency, the condition of the world around us, and even the condition of our own hearts, and we begin to cry out like Isaiah did: “Lord, if You don’t intervene, what hope do we have?” Isaiah 63 is not the prayer of a proud people pretending to have everything together. It is the prayer of people who know they have rebelled against the love of God and yet still dare to call upon Him because they know His mercy is greater than their failures.

What makes this prayer so powerful is that it begins and ends with God’s love. Israel’s relationship with the Lord was *never* sustained by Israel’s goodness. It was sustained by ADONAI—by HIS compassion, HIS zeal, HIS covenant love, and HIS faithfulness. The intercessor remembers that ADONAI redeemed, carried, restored, and pursued His people again and again. Even after rebellion, the Lord did not abandon them. And so the prayer rises from the depths: “Please don’t stop now, Lord. Don’t give up on us now.” That same cry still rises from the hearts of believers today who know that apart from His mercy, we are helpless.

1. LORD, DON’T WITHDRAW YOUR COMPASSION (IS. 63:15)

Isaiah begins by crying out, “*Look down from heaven and see from Your holy, glorious, lofty abode.*” (Is. 63:15). There is a deep ache in these words. The people feel distant from God, not because He has changed, but because their sin has created separation. Yet even in that distance, Isaiah appeals to the Lord’s compassion. “Where are Your zeal and mighty deeds?” he asks. “Are the yearnings of Your heart withheld from me?” The prayer is not demanding justice based on human goodness. It is pleading for mercy based on God’s character.

This is the desperate prayer of someone who knows the only hope left is the unfailing love of God. Isaiah remembers that the Lord had pursued Israel before, even when they did not deserve it. Like Hosea’s picture of God pursuing an unfaithful bride, the prophet knows that the relationship endured because of God’s zeal and covenant love. There are seasons when we, too, feel the weight of our failures and wonder if we have exhausted God’s patience. But Isaiah reminds us that our hope has never rested in our worthiness. It has always rested in the compassion of the One who refuses to abandon His people.

2. LORD, YOU ALONE ARE OUR FATHER (Is. 63:16)

Isaiah continues, “*For You are our Father—even if Abraham would not know us or Israel not recognize us.*” (Is. 63:16). This is one of the most humbling confessions in the passage. The people realize that heritage, ancestry, reputation, and identity cannot save them. Abraham could not rescue them. Jacob could not redeem them. Their hope was not in genealogy or ethnicity but in relationship with the living God. The only appeal left was this: “YOU are our Father. YOU are our Redeemer.”

There is something deeply freeing about this realization. Many people spend their lives clinging to titles, accomplishments, family names, ministry success, or religious performance. Yet none of those things can transform the heart. Isaiah strips away every false source of confidence and falls completely upon the ADONAI's mercy. The Lord's very Name is tied to redemption. He is the Everlasting Redeemer. The God who brought Israel out of Egypt is still the God who rescues His people from captivity. Even when we find ourselves trapped by our own failures and repeated sins, we can still cry out to Him because redemption flows from who He is, not from who we are.

3. LORD, TEAR OPEN THE HEAVENS AND CHANGE US (Is. 63:17-19)

Isaiah's prayer becomes even more desperate in verses 17-19. "*ADONAI, why do You cause us to stray from Your ways and harden our heart from fearing You?*" (Is. 63:17). This is not an attempt to blame God for sin. It is the cry of someone who recognizes the terrifying power of a hardened heart. Isaiah sees the helplessness of humanity apart from divine intervention. The people want to change, yet they continually return to rebellion. It echoes Paul's cry in Romans 7: "*For the good that I want, I do not do.*" The prophet realizes that if transformation is going to happen, God Himself must intervene.

The chapter closes with one of the most powerful pleas in Scripture: "***Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down.***" (Is. 63:19; 64:1). The people feel as though they have become indistinguishable from those who never knew God at all. They feel ruined, broken, and far away. Yet even there, intercession refuses to stop crying out. Isaiah storms the gates of heaven with every appeal he can make: God's love, God's Name, God's promises, God's covenant, God's compassion. And ultimately the prayer becomes simple: "We need You." That remains the cry of every believer who understands that no amount of self-effort can produce true transformation. Only the presence of God can soften hearts, break chains, and restore what sin has destroyed.

CONCLUSION

The beauty of this passage is that it does not hide human weakness. Isaiah does not pretend that the people are righteous enough to deserve restoration. Instead, he throws himself entirely upon the mercy of ADONAI. The prayer of intercession begins with remembering who God is and ends with total dependence upon Him. The Lord's love brought His people this far, and His love would be the only thing capable of carrying them forward. The same is true for us. We are not sustained by our own strength, discipline, or perfection. We are sustained by the zeal, compassion, and faithfulness of our Father.

Perhaps today you feel distant from God. Maybe you are exhausted by repeated struggles, disappointed by your failures, or burdened for someone you love who seems far from the Lord. Let Isaiah's prayer become your own. Cry out honestly. Appeal to His mercy. Ask Him to tear open the heavens and come down into the places of brokenness, bondage, and despair. He is still the Everlasting Redeemer. He is still compassionate. He is still able to save. Bring your weakness before Him today and let your heart cry out: "Lord, we need You."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the reasons that it is important to recognize that Isaiah's prayer is rooted in God's love rather than Israel's worthiness?
2. What does Isaiah 63 teach us about the role of intercession and reminding ourselves of God's heart?
3. In what areas of your life have you felt the desperation of Romans 7—the desire to obey God while struggling against repeated failure?
4. Are there places where you have been relying on identity, achievement, family background, or religious performance instead of resting in God as your Father and Redeemer?
5. What would it look like for you this week to pray more boldly and passionately for someone who needs God to “rend the heavens and come down” into their situation?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we come before You acknowledging that our hope has never rested in our own goodness. You are our Father, our Redeemer from everlasting. Thank You for pursuing us with compassion even when we have wandered from Your ways. Thank You that Your zeal and mercy are greater than our failures. Lord, do not leave us to our own hardness of heart. Tear open the heavens and come down. Meet us in our weakness and transform us by Your presence.

Lord, break every chain of bondage and silence every lie of the enemy. Strengthen us to walk faithfully before You. Soften our hearts where they have grown cold, awaken us where we have become complacent, and restore those who have wandered far away. May Your light shine through us so that the hurting, broken, and lost would see Your beauty. We need You, Lord. Have Your way in us through Messiah Yeshua.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.