

“Precious Daughters”

Sometimes life doesn't turn out the way we wished and dreamed it would. When that's the case, Isaiah 43:1-7 is a great place to turn: *“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.’² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.⁴ Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life.⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west;⁶ I will say to the north, “Give them up!” and to the south, “Do not keep them back!” Bring My sons and from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth—⁷ Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”*

When life doesn't turn out the way we dreamed it would, we should remember from Isaiah 43 that **God speaks to us**. God speaks to us in a still, small voice. He speaks to us through His Word. He speaks to us when we quiet ourselves and come before Him in prayer. God can speak to us through dreams, or through manifestations of the Holy Spirit, or through other people, or in a lot of different ways. We need to listen for His words and receive His message. Often what God wants to say to us is, *“Fear not.”* Whatever happens, we don't have to be afraid because He is with us, and He is the Lord our God, the Holy One, our Savior. **Second**, when life doesn't turn out the way we dreamed it would, we should remember from Isaiah 43 that ***you are the creation of the Lord (and God don't make no junk!)***. This passage reminds us that God created and formed us for His glory. He is the Potter, you are the clay. Don't fight His design and formation for your life. Accept the calling, giftedness and shape that God desires for you. Submit to God's plan and accept His lot for your life. **Third**, when life doesn't turn out the way we dreamed it would, we should remember from Isaiah 43 that ***God never promised a “bed of roses,” but He did promise that He would be with us.*** Life is full of tests, difficulties, and hardships. It's not a matter of “if,” but “when.” When we pass through the waters/rivers and walk through the fire—God will be with us. And be assured that you will make it through. Your troubles will not do you in until God says that the number of days ordained for you are complete. **Fourth**, when life doesn't turn out the way we dreamed it would, we should remember from Isaiah 43 that ***there is always hope for God's intervention.*** When God is involved, there is always hope that our prayers will be answered. Always remember that God specializes in things thought impossible. **Fifth**, when life doesn't turn out the way we dreamed it would, we should remember from Isaiah 43 that ***you are precious to the Lord.*** He knows you and calls you by name. He says you are honored, precious and loved!

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Are you listening for God's voice and message?
2. Listen to Steven Curtis Chapman's song, *“Jesus Will Meet You There.”*
3. Partner with the Lord in believing that God will bring your wayward sons and daughters back home.