



Grace Group Discussion Questions

Title: "Behold Your God!"
Theme: The revelation of the LORD's glory brings the comfort that His people are desperately seeking.
Text: Isaiah 40:1-11
Preacher: Jerrel Haugen
Date: September 5, 2010

Grace Group Questions for this Sunday's Sermon:

- 1) In Isaiah 40:1-11, God speaks a message of comfort into the lives of His rebellious children. The truths He asserts as the basis for that comfort (time of service= over, iniquity = pardoned, double for all her sins = received) may have been contrary to how they were FEELING. Discuss situations in your lives in which your feelings tell you something contrary to what God has said in Scripture.
- 2) The gospel writers quote Isaiah 40:3 "...prepare the way of the LORD..." as a description of John the Baptizer who preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John pointed to Jesus as the One who ultimately fulfilled this passage. Jesus began His preaching ministry by saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17, Mark 1:15) Are there areas of your life in which you still long to experience God's comfort? Discuss these areas and describe what it looks like to "prepare the way of the LORD". As the Spirit leads, confess and repent of sins that are standing in the way of your experiencing His comfort.
- 3) Perhaps your circumstances seem so large, powerful, and hopeless that you can't imagine receiving God's deliverance and comfort. Consider Scripture passages that speak directly into those situations. Now, consider your circumstances in light of verse 8, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Pray for the faith necessary to stand firm on the eternal word of God in light of these situations.
- 4) In verses 9 through 11, those who were comforted are called to boldly proclaim the coming of the LORD. If Jesus is your Savior, you know the comfort of the forgiveness of your sins. What does it mean for us to say to our surrounding cities, "Here is your God!"? This invitation to join God in His work was to be proclaimed to a people who were still in a very messy situation (the walls of Jerusalem were broken down). How does this motivate and encourage us? Pray for an increased urgency to proclaim the gospel of salvation in Jesus. Pray that we will "lift up [our] voices with strength...and not fear"