

Sermon: **Revival of the Spirit**  
Isaiah 40: 1 / 7 27-31

We are changing our Wednesday night prayer and giving it a new name. This name identifies the reality that those who come ever week experience. It is a reality that keeps us coming back for more. Even when we are tired and spent we make time for this. We do this because we have come to know that God is in our midst. That we always leave different than when we came. The thing that puzzles us the most is why this isn't the most attended meeting of the church. The true power happens here.

This Chapter opens with the very telling words of Comfort for God's people. I do not have to take a poll and ask how many people need to experience God's comfort today. I come today broken, and in need myself. I have heard the words so often it makes me sick, about people needing a brake, and being tired. I have looked high and low to understand what this means.

When Jack first told me the scripture he wanted to use I did not see how it would fit, but after the week I have had it has brought me great comfort and strength.

This passage opens with the reality that the Assyrian struggle is over. The prophet sees that the oppressing enemy is Babylon, but in reality the true problem has been Israel. Because of their continual disobedience to God they now must face judgment. His heart is broken by a people who exist has a distant generation of God. But in his ears and mind is the hope of a future that God has promised.

This idea is simple and yet profound. It shows us the depth of God's love. He is a caring Father who is disciplining His children reluctantly. His hope is a restored relationship. But he knows without the harsh realities of captivity they will take Him for granted and follow other gods and their own passions. Sometimes pain enters. We become powerless, yet in this state we can and will find our true source of strength and hope.

When troubles come many people reach out to things. You may be so low in debt yet you go spend your last dollars on entertainment because there seems to be no hope of ever getting out. You just want a little relief even for a moment. That is why so many people keep their pet sins. This is also why we use and allow distractions and entertainment to steal our souls and keep us away from God and His people; just wanting a little relief. However, the reality is only God can give us a future, and hope, and ease the pain we feel in our souls. Most of the things that distract and burden us are fleeting and only in the moment, they have no eternal significance.

V1 shows the direct mission of the prophet. Prophets are usually seen as the whipping boys of God to beat the people into right living, but here we see God using these bold persons to be the ambassadors of comfort. He says it twice, and in Hebrew this is significant. To place emphasis in this old language they repeated the phrase or words. God is serious about comforting even those who are being rightly punished. He is ever compassionate wanting our good. This is such a different view of God than most people carry.

**V27 Why are they complaining? Why do they say that there way is hidden from the Lord? And that their cause is disregarded by God.**

Israel in captivity feels that God has utterly abandoned them. Many of us feel the pressure of life and often wonder where God is. Why has He called me and then left me here to suffer. What kind of God is this? We do not stop to think what caused our present condition to exile—forsaking God. We do not

understand that this suffering can cease if we acknowledge and reconcile to God. It is easier to blame and feel abandoned. To only see the present and not the presents' link to the past, and how that link to God can change our future or how God can or even would deliver us.

### **V28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?**

Suffering and problems cloud our understanding. Sometimes we need to stop and recollect ourselves and our thoughts. We need to harness the emotions and try and look at things as they are apart from our situations. Do you not know? What has Israel forgotten in the midst of their captivity? What are they missing because they are too busy throwing their pity party?

We need to use our God-given memories and recall the telling of what the prophet is about to reveal again to us.

1: The Lord is the everlasting God; He is not created or flew by night. He is the only eternal being; hence His understanding and ways are deeper than we ever could understand.

2: Creator of the ends of the earth: God is not only eternal but powerful. All that we can know and conceive was fashioned by His hands.

3: Will not grow weary

4: Understanding is great and unfathomable.

### **V29 He gives strength to the weary, and power to the weak.**

These things do not come by our own strength. Maybe we are looking in the wrong place for our renewal. We talk about God a lot, but do we lean on God when the tough times come. Do we lean on His people and draw comfort from Him? Do we tell Him our needs and express our utter dependence upon Him for strength?

### **V30**

We look at children and think if we could just harness that energy. But even kids get tired. I mean they were running on all cylinders the first day of our camp, but by Friday night they were exhausted and spent.

### **V31 The key to revival of the soul.**

Hope- We could also say trust in or look expectantly. Our hope is not in things or in others but in the Lord. If it lies anywhere else then we will not experience the renewal we are looking for. This renewal will be fleeting and pale compared to what God offers. Yet I see so many people who would rather settle for a cheap imitation than experience the true renewal God offers. This is generally because of pride.

If we have hope in the Lord then we will have our strength renewed.

Our weakness gives way to God's strength.

Run and do not grow weary—Marathon was easier because I had my sister to talk to. I looked at it as an extended talk with motion. I believe that is only way I was able to make it. We encouraged each other, distracted each other, and cheered each other and those around us on.

Walk and do not faint.

I picture the guy in the desert looking for water, yet he is refreshed and seemingly unaffected by the heat. The goal is sure, the resolve is set. There is no question about failure, because we rely on the everlasting God.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

We can overcome anything as long as we align ourselves with God.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

No obstacle or personal problem is too big.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

No pessimistic talk or situation can get us down.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

Our hope is in God not our present surroundings.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

We are children of the King, we are a royal priesthood.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

We are a victorious army, the living sacrifice, who show the hope that God in us can help us overcome.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***

He can refresh and give us strength for all this world and the other world can throw at us.

***Do you not know? Have you not heard?***