



Advent

The Weight of Waiting: Preparation in the Waiting

Isaiah 40

Advent. Waiting : much of life requires it. A spiritual reality – longing, anticipation, attentiveness. God is at work in our waiting creating, forming, preparing.

Isaiah 40 reveals His work of preparation:

1. **Reconciliation:** From the very beginning God has been pursuing His plan to redeem humanity back to Himself (through the gift of His son).
2. **The Way:** “a highway for the Lord:” The Holy Spirit is preparing the way in us, leading us in clearing away obstacles to make a straight way for the Lord – in our hearts and in our lives.
3. **The Terrain:** Raising valleys. Bringing down mountains. Leveling the rough places... “to reveal the glory of the Lord’ To who? – “ALL mankind will see it.”
 - Lifting us up from despair. Bringing us down from our heights of pride. Smoothing out the tumultuous experiences in our lives. Giving a clear sense of who we are as HIS.
4. **Our perspective:** “Here is your God, and His reward is with Him.”
 - His reward (His mercy, grace, and blessing) comes WITH Him. We receive Him, and we get all the “reward” He brings.
 - And how does He come to us? – “He tends His flock like a shepherd, holding His lambs close to His heart.”
5. **Our Hope:** “Do not say, ‘my way is hidden from the Lord’”
 - Waiting is often “weighty” with groaning, fear, doubt, but - “Do you not know? Have you not heard?” God is not distant. He is not weary of you. He is the everlasting God, eyes always on His people.
 - “Those who wait upon the Lord (Hope IN the Lord); He will renew their strength. They will mount up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”
 - Waiting may be long; life can be quite hard; circumstances can be scary and painful, but we can wait IN Him, IN Hope, and He will renew us and lift us up. There is hope and strength even in the waiting.

“Lord, we wait for you, in you, with hope. We trust you are preparing and forming your life and glory in us. Holy Spirit, help us make “a way” (space) for the Lord to come. Good Shepherd, tend our hearts and lives with your love and “reward.” We rejoice, Jesus, in your coming - then, now in our daily lives, and in the future to wrap up all things. Joy to the world!”

