



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - December 2, 2012

Sermon

“Planning & Preparing”

Isaiah 40:3-8

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 12/3/12

Isaiah 40:3

The voice. Do you ever hear voices? Maybe it's from a beloved relative with whom you had a close relationship, or maybe it is from a mentor who taught you a lot about life. Voices ring in our minds and not because we're crazy! We need to pay attention to these voices. Could the voice sometimes be the voice of God? What do you hear? Are you paying attention to the voices in your head? What are they saying? This voice that Isaiah heard was preparing the way of the Lord and it's a good thing that Isaiah heard this voice!

Tuesday 12/4/12

Isaiah 40:3b-4

This voice was preparing a highway for God. The highway was to be straight and in the desert. The prophecy was for every valley to be exalted and every mountain made low, the crooked places made level and the rough places smooth. The road of life can be treacherous and difficult. The road of the Lord was going to be different and it would make lives different, too! Is the path you are on now difficult or easy? Would it make a difference if God was walking with you on your path?

Wednesday 12/5/12

Isaiah 40:5

“The mouth of the Lord has spoken...” Not only was Isaiah hearing voices in his head, but this voice spoke clearly to him. In fact, it would be a prophecy that everyone could see. The glory of the Lord was about to be revealed and it would clearly be seen by those who saw it. Do you ever think about “the glory of the Lord?” What do you think this means?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Think more deeply about this prophecy and see how you think it came true in the Christmas story.

Give thanks to God for your life and the life of your family and friends.

Are you preparing for Christmas?

Are you preparing for eternity?

Thursday 12/6/12
Isaiah 40:6

The voice had more to say: "Cry!" Now Isaiah asks the voice a question, "What shall I cry?" The first part of the answer was, "all flesh is grass, and the beauty of it is as the flower of the field." Interestingly, this sounds very similar to Jesus' words in his Sermon on the Mount. We all recognize that life is fleeting and relatively short. We live for a span and then we die, and yet each life is beautiful! This is God's plan and it is part of what Isaiah was hearing in this prophecy. Thank God today for your life and the life of your family and friends!

Friday 12/7/12
Isaiah 40:7

Life is not always easy nor is it always fair. Why do some old curmudgeons live for a long, long time, while some who are joyful and giving only live a short time? Some things are not ours to understand yet, but God's plan is perfect. The grass withers and the flower fades... And so do we. What will people remember about us? What will be your legacy after you are gone? And do you know where you are going when you die?

Saturday 12/8/12
Isaiah 40:8

The first part of verse 8 repeats part of verse 7. This is intentional and not a mistake. Sometimes a speaker will repeat something specific to make a point. Yes, the grass withers and the flower fades, but God's word stands forever. This is the hope we have for all time--even in death. God's word stands through the ups and downs of life. "I stand alone on the word of God, the B-I-B-L-E!"