



SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS FOR MARCH 16, 2014

Sermon: "Humility, Dependency, Stability: A Call to Prayer"

Scripture: Isaiah 30:1-5, 31:1-5, 33:1-6

Preaching: Bob Hopper

1. What is the difference between the "western world view" of individualism and the biblical world view of "community?" Which of the two has had the most influence upon us as a congregation?
2. What is the predicament that was facing Israel at this time (Isaiah 29)? How did Israel respond to this threat? What was their strategy? What were they relying on to save them?
3. Do you as an individual (or as a family) face a threat or predicament right now? What is your natural/common/instinctive way to respond to a threat (i.e. writing with your strong side hand)? In the past, what has this strategy produced in: you, your situation, your relationships, your joy, your witness, etc.?
4. How many times have we suffered because we "made an alliance" with something (or someone) to save us, but "without asking for [God's] direction" (see 30:1-2)? Do you agree with the statement: "A sure indicator of self-reliance is the sin of prayerlessness"?
5. Do we as a congregation face a threat or a predicament right now? What is our natural/common/instinctive way to respond to a threat (i.e. writing with your strong side hand)? In the past, what has this strategy produced in: our church, our relationships, our joy, our unity, our witness?
6. In what way does Scripture (Isaiah 31:1-5) describe the futility of relying on our own strategies to keep us safe (Isaiah 31:1-3)? Can you give an example from your personal life, or our congregational life, where you have seen this to be true?
7. In the midst of bringing deep conviction to Israel for their sinful strategies (31:1-3), how is God's promise of grace and provision conveyed (31:4-5)? What does it mean to "live by promises and not appearances"?
8. Review 33:1-6. What is the humble plea of vs. 2? What qualities or attributes of God are described in vs. 5-6? In times of tumult, who or what have you relied upon to be "the stability of your times"? What has this produced in your life, your relationships, and our church?
9. How is the gospel being preached in 33:1-6? In what ways does Jesus want to be "the stability of our times"? Do you believe that Jesus is sufficient . . . sovereign . . . trustworthy . . . ?



10. In what ways is Isaiah calling you (or us) to repentance? What are you personally repentant of? What do you think our congregation should be repentant of?
11. What is your (our) "treasure" (vs. 6). When Jesus is not truly our "treasure", we are then guilty of the sin of _____? When Jesus is our "treasure", what does this produce in our lives, our relationships, our worship, our congregation?
12. ACTION POINTS: repent . . . believe . . . rejoice . . . pray . . . 40 Days of Prayer participation . . .