

Isaiah Prayer Guide

Monday, March 17th – Saturday, March 22nd

Monday: Isaiah 49:14-16 (Casey Cronin)

Prayer: “Oh snap! What in the world did I come into (insert room, basement, garage, etc.) to look for?” My mother would say she was having “a senior moment” when she forgot what task she was doing. And I would think; “well yeah Gert, you’re getting old”. Fast forward to today and guess who’s having those “senior moments” now? Well yeah Casey, you’re getting old! Tempus fugit; time flies. And our mental capacity changes along with it. Many of us have seen the cruel progression of dementia in loved ones and friends. We get a glimpse regarding memory in today’s verse from Isaiah; “But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.” “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.” (NOTE: an exclamation point is emphatic; it means ‘Pay attention to what has been stated.’) How unthinkable it is to imagine a mother abandoning her young child, and yet it happens. It is very hard to comprehend. Isaiah compares Judah to the abandoned child mourning but promises the Lord will never forget His people, even with the coming predicted captivity. The walls of protection will once again rise after the nation is restored many years into the future.

Lord, how dear our children are to us. How could we forget them? And we are your children, brought to faith by your Son, Jesus. You will not forget us. Our names are tattooed on your palms. On our own, we could never attain such a place but it is only through the graciousness of Jesus, who bore our sins on the cross, that we can be called Children of God. Amen.

Question: Have you ever stopped to imagine how God’s love is even greater than a mother’s love for her child?

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:17-18 (Larry Paul)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we humbly come before You today acknowledging that we all too often have forsaken You and Your ways and are saddened at how that separates us from You. We are thankful that You have not abandoned us. Thank You for Jesus’ sacrificial death that cleanses us from our sins and reunites us with You. And we ask that You help us make this Good News known to our community.

Question: How can we help those who have fallen away from faith in God to return?

Wednesday: Isaiah 49:19-20 (Jordan Byrd)

Prayer: Lord, I grieve that my life and the world around me have been ruined by living apart from you. Father, though my life and the world seem beyond repair, you know what is still possible. You know the flourishing and renewal that can come through your power. My life often reflects the desolate land of Israel in its disobedience to you. But you created an eternal kingdom, as vast as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the shore, from a small nation. Thank you for raising Jesus to be the King of kings, the ruler who can transform my life and the world into a lush garden of eternal life. Help me to never lose hope, but to remember that you are the giver, sustainer, and renewer of all life. It's by the power of your Spirit and through your Son, Jesus, I pray this. Amen.

Question: How is God calling you to be an uncommon presence of hope in the midst of the despairing population around you? Ask God's Spirit to reveal a specific way for you to be a beacon of hope to someone today.

Thursday: Isaiah 49:21-22 (Sean Cronin)

Prayer: Mighty God, You are the one who restores and fulfills Your promises. When I feel desolate and wonder how you will provide, remind me of your abundant grace. You promised to gather your people from every corner and bring them home, and you did that. I trust that you will make a way where there seems to be none. Open my eyes to your faithfulness and prepare my heart to receive the blessings you have planned for me. Use me to be a part of your work of restoration and hope in the world. I trust in your timing and your power. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question: When was a time in your life when you needed restoration and healing? How did God bring that healing to your life?

Friday: Isaiah 49:23-26 (Mitchell Knight)

Prayer: Although I have many enemies, although I am assaulted from every direction from many foes, I know that You are with me, Lord, my God! Just as You fought for the Israelites, I know that You fight for me too! Thank You for calling me Your child and calling me a co-heir with Christ. Today, please help me not to be anxious or afraid, because I have You as my hope and my strength!

Question: Who do I turn to when I am stressed or afraid? Where does my help come from?

Saturday – Summary Reflection: Isaiah 49:14-26

Re-read Isaiah 49:14-26. What does this passage reveal about God? What does it reveal about people? Is there an example to follow or a command to obey? How will you respond to what you've encountered in this passage (what step of faith or act of obedience will you take)?

Read Isaiah 50:1-11. Read in preparation for Sunday's worship gathering and next week's prayer guide.