
The question is, will we trust in his sovereignty so much that we run to Him as a comforter? To do that, it helps us to know how God comforts those he loves

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. As the Israelites marched off to Babylon in fulfillment of God's prophecy, I do not doubt that they knew God was sovereign over all. It was clear that God was in control of all that happened here on earth. While we do not know what each Israelite was feeling, I believe many of them felt like God was in control of everything, except for their lives, which were now in utter chaos. Many people can relate to just such a feeling. So how do we trust in God's sovereignty in the midst of chaos and even tragedy?
2. Why is it good news that God is sovereign and in control?

READ: Isaiah 40:1-14

3. Vs. 6-8, Crisis reminds us that we are not God. Like grass that is blown by the wind and a flower that fades and withers, we are not as strong as we think we are. But the good news is that God is. He is eternal and mighty in power. What situation or crisis in your life has reminded you of your own weaknesses but also of God's power to sustain you?
4. Vs 10- Israel needed to be reminded in a time of chaos that "the Sovereign LORD (still) comes with power, and he (still) rules with a mighty arm." This was true even when Jerusalem fell. This was true even in the Babylonian captivity. How do we remind ourselves of God's power and might when we are afraid and powerless?
5. Vs 11 - What did Isaiah mean when he said God is like a shepherd?
6. Vs 12-14 - In verses 12-14, Isaiah asks five questions of Israel, and the world for that matter, if they could even begin to rival God's wisdom and knowledge. He did this because in a crisis, we will often begin to question God's wisdom. What is so dangerous about this pitfall, and how can we avoid it?

READ: Isaiah 40:27-31

7. One of the worst phrases that you commonly hear in Christian circles is that God will never give you more than you can handle. This is neither true nor biblical. We are often given more than we can handle. We will never be given more than God can handle. The question is, will we rely on his strength or our own? How can we practically rely on God's strength in crisis rather than our own?

PRAYER TIME

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