

Sermon #3: Know Your Position

26 Oct 2025

BREAKING THE ICE

- What is your first reaction in life when things get stressful or out of control: 1. Try harder, 2. Seek worldly solutions, 3. Trust God?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Isaiah 30:1-26; Matthew 11:28-30)

Setting & Context: Isaiah was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the reign of five different kings while they were being oppressed primarily by the Assyrians to the North. The Assyrian nation would actually conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel during Isaiah's ministry. Isaiah's ministry was to call Judah back to obedience to God and to trust in God for their protection, not their own strength or the strength of other nations they might seek for protection. Having witnessed the Northern Kingdom be conquered, Judah was fearful that they were next.

1. What does God accuse His people of doing wrong according to vs 1-2?
2. Where do the Israelites go for protection instead of trusting God? (vs 2)?
3. What consequences does God say will come from trusting in Egypt rather than Him? (vs 6-7, 12-14)
4. How do we, today, often seek protection or "salvation" from sources other than God?
5. How does God proclaim that Israel will be delivered in vs 15?
6. According to vs 16-17, what is Israel's response to God's proclamation and what will result from it?
7. How do you see God's posture and heart toward wayward Israel in vs 18-19?
8. What promises does God make to Israel and what command does He give them in vs 20-21?
9. According to vs 22-26, what will be the result of Israel's repentance and return to God?
10. How do Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30 parallel what we see in Isaiah 30?
11. What causes weariness and burden in our lives that only finding true rest in Jesus will resolve?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Israel continued to rebel against God and trust in her own ability to save herself . . . to the point that she crucified the very Savior sent to save her! Jesus is not only a personal Savior, He is the True and better Israel Who fully trusted His Father even when His enemies surrounded Him. He did not seek a worldly savior like power, money, fame or even victimhood. He fully trusted His Father and it cost Him His life . . . temporarily! Jesus experienced God's mighty victory partially in His resurrection. He will experience it totally when He returns again to bring final and full salvation to His children and judgement of His enemies.

- How does seeing & trusting Jesus' faithfulness to God & His resulting victory stir your faith to more courageously trust God in your trials?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. What is a current “battle” or stressful situation you are facing that is tempting you to trust in your ability or the resources of this world to overcome? (Hint: what is sapping your energy in life & leaving you weary?)
2. How might God be calling out to you to trust Him so He can show you mercy and compassion?
3. What would it look like for you to fully trust Him in this situation?
4. How can you courageously step toward this rest in your life this week?

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God’s will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today’s lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.