

FEAR NOT!

Isaiah 41-44

Pastor Doug Schillinger

- I. **FEAR NOT! The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ :** (Isaiah 41:1-7)  
*Listen to me in silence, O coastlands; let the peoples renew their strength; let them approach, then let them speak; let us together draw near for judgment. **Who stirred up one from the east** whom victory meets at every step? He gives up nations before him, so that he tramples kings underfoot; he makes them like dust with his sword, like driven stubble with his bow.*

Isaiah 41:1-2

*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will.*

Proverbs 21:1

**Q: What circumstances are eroding your confidence and stealing your joy?**

- II. **FEAR NOT! The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ His People:** (Isaiah 41:80-29; 43:1-44:28)

- 1) **The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."*

Isaiah 41:10, 13

- 2) **The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us.**  
*But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*

Isaiah 43:1-3

**Q: How would you live if you truly believed that God is deeply in love with you?**

- 3) **The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us.**  
*Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? There is no Rock; I know not any."*

Isaiah 44:6,8

**Q: What evidences of idolatry do you see in your life?**

- III. **FEAR NOT! The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ :** (Isaiah 42:1-7)  
*Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.*

Isaiah 42:1

*If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but freely gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things?*

Romans 8:31-32

For Further Study

1. **The Messiah/God's Servant:** In four different passages referred to as the Servant Songs, Isaiah paints pictures of the ministry of Jesus about 700 years before He came to earth. These passages, and their corresponding New Testament references, are: **Isaiah 42** (Matthew 12:17-21); **Isaiah 49:1-6** (Luke 1:79, John 1:10-11, and Philippians 2:9-11); **Isaiah 50:4-10** (Mark 14:65; 15:16-20 and 1 Peter 2:22-23), and **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** (Luke 23:18 and Romans 5:6, 8).
2. **Prophecies about Cyrus:** Isaiah's prophecies about Cyrus are astonishing, considering that Isaiah prophesied about Cyrus 150 years before he reigned as king. Cyrus was first referred to in **Isaiah 41:2**, then more clearly in **Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1**. Isaiah pointed to Cyrus as an example of how God can raise up even an earthly ruler who does not worship Him to do His bidding and bless His people. These themes of God's sovereignty over the circumstances in our lives are also seen in these passages: **Romans 8:28-39; Psalm 46; and Psalm 115:3**.
3. **Love Casts Out Fear:** One of the greatest remedies to fear is to realize that you are loved by the Almighty, Sovereign God of the universe. Isaiah describes God's love for his people in these powerful passages: **Isaiah 40:1-2; 41:10-13; 43:1-7; 44:1-8; and 44:21-23**. Here are some other "go to" passages that proclaim God's love for us: **Romans 8:28-39; Psalm 103; Romans 5:1-10; and John 15:9-17**.
4. **Idols in our Lives:** Tim Keller defines an idol as "anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, "If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure." To identify idols in our lives, we can ask ourselves, 1) What, if I lost it, would devastate my life—so that I could no longer go on living? 2) What do I turn to for comfort when I am discouraged or afraid? 3) What makes me feel the most self worth? Look at Isaiah's strong warnings about idolatry in **Isaiah 46:6-23**, and look at the folly of idolatry compared to trusting in God in **Isaiah 40:12-31 and Psalm 115**.

To Discuss: With families, friends, community groups

1. Points that hit you from Isaiah 41-44?
2. What are your recurring fears? What promises/truths you can cling to when you are afraid? How does the Gospel address these fears?
3. Do your fears uncover any evidences of idolatry in your life (see question #4 above)?
4. As a group, read these passages out loud to one another, and identify the various ways that God expresses His love for us, His people: **Isaiah 40:1-2; 41:10-13; 43:1-7; 44:1-8; and 44:21-23**