

“A Way in the Wilderness”

Isaiah 40:1-5, 43:19

Rev. Rick Dietzman, August 30, 2020

I. When God’s people are stressed, He promises comfort.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Isaiah 40:1

A. How do we cope each week? Protestant All

Watch TV and Movies	89%	89%
Time Outdoors	86%	84%
Pray	78%	55%
Friends and Family	72%	70%
Exercise	63%	64%
Read Scripture	49%	29%

Pew Research Center survey August 7, 2020

A. Assurance in our hearts that our hard service – warfare is completed, our sin is paid for, justice is done. (*Isaiah 40:2*)

The LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!” Isaiah 30:18.

II. There is good news in the wilderness. Jesus provides and guides

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God... Mark 1:1

A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” – Isaiah 40:3 and Mark 1:2-3

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. – Mark 1:4

A. Smoothing out the rough places

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. – Isaiah 40: 4-5

B. Glory is best revealed in the desert

After [king] Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi” – 1 Samuel 24:1

III. Watch and wait for the new thing God is doing

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” – Isaiah 43:19

A. “A Desert Transformed” – This week’s Bible app study plan.

He will be gracious if you ask for help. He will surely respond to the sound of your cries. Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, he will still be with you to teach you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes. Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go.” – Isaiah 30:19-21 NLT

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” – John 14:5-7.

CONCLUSION