Resurrecting Hope: Redeeming Hope
Isaiah 49:8-17
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Isaiah 49:8-17: This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, [9] to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. [10] They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. [11] I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. [12] See, they will come from afar-- some from the north, some from the west, some from the region of Aswan. " [13] Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. [14] But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." [15] "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! [16] See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. [17] Your children hasten back, and those who laid you waste depart from you. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. Struggling with the need for redemption

Sense of uselessness: Futility was empowered to reign over all of creation, not by creation's choice but by humanity's rejection of God's reign over it. Even though futility reigns, God provides a living hope which shall set it free from the power of death and decay!

Roman 8:20-21a (JOT)

2. Resurrecting the power of redemption

Renew purpose: Behold, I have appointed you the covenant tribe of the world…a light to bring salvation…but Zion said, 'God has forsaken me and the Lord has forgotten me!' Isaiah 49:6, 14 (JOT)

Recover God's help: This is what the Lord says: "Expect a welcomed season when I will hear your cry for help…saying to the prisoners, 'Come out! Your chains are gone!' And to the ones in darkness, 'Come into the light!'...They will neither hunger or thirst…."

Isaiah 49:8-10 (JOT)

Regain God's heart: Never! Can a mother forget her little child and not have love for her own baby?...I will not forget you. See, I have tattooed your name upon my palm…Soon your rebuilders shall come and chase away all those destroying you. Isaiah 49:16-17 (TLB)

3. Reclaiming God's hope

Revive the Spirit: We are not obligated to live according to the sinful nature, we have been set free from it. If we do, we will die! We shall be made truly alive if- through the Spirit- we put to death the practices of our sinful nature. Romans 8:12-13 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Are you struggling with emptiness? Are you hungry for purpose and meaning in your life? Are you thirsting for joy and hope? Jesus said: *whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14, NIV)* Recognize that you are a sinner in the sight of God and that you cannot save yourself. Receive this gift of grace for your life. God wants to set you free and claim you as his very own child! He will never leave you or forsake you! This week read Isaiah 49 and Romans 8 to empower the Holy Spirit to break the power of sin and bring you into the light!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible.