

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Deserts to Gardens

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 34-35

Theme: Put your trust in the Lord and he will turn your desert into a garden.

Introduction: Repetition is generally a very important part of the process of change. The daily repetition of manna for 40 years was part of the Lord's process in teaching Israel to depend on him, to trust him. So also, chapters 13-35 of Isaiah have been a series of repeated lessons on trust. The Lord has designed us for dependence upon him, and he is at work to produce that reliance within us.

Isaiah highlights two questions to help us to learn to trust the Lord:

1. What happens if you refuse to trust? (34)

Edom was a perpetual enemy of Judah, and they are addressed here for the first time. They also serve as a representative for anyone who is hostile to God and to his people.

They are to receive the punishment of those who reject God—their garden becomes a desert.

There is no true life apart from God. Idols always lead us into the desert. To serve idols is to live a barren life, a purposeless life.

2. Who is God in my life? (35)

God's people, by contrast, are safe and secure because he is protecting and providing for them. He is the one who makes the garden a pleasant place.

No matter how difficult our circumstances, the Lord can rescue and redeem us.

The picture of a highway in the midst of fallenness speaks to this. The Lord promises to make a way for his people, no matter how dire their circumstances.

Questions:

1. How is the Lord at work in your life right now to deepen your trust in him?
2. How do you struggle to trust him? What idols are typical temptations for you?
3. How is God blessing you? How does he encourage your faith?