

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Keep Waiting on the Lord

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 63:15-64:12

Theme: When life is not as it ought to be keep waiting on the Lord.

Introduction: There are many goods to be sought in this life; but fundamentally, life should be worship. We ought to live our lives oriented to the Lord and seeking his glory. In Isaiah's day, Israel had failed miserably at this goal, and they were experiencing the effects of their failures. Though they were religious, they were also rebellious, and the Lord was judging them.

This passage captures 4 cries of Isaiah on behalf of God's people:

1. "Where is Father?" (63:15-19)

Isaiah appealed to the Lord on the basis of the special relationship he had with Israel as his people.

He reminded God of that relationship, even while acknowledging that they had fallen far from the standard.

They were experiencing the vicious cycle of sin: rebellion led to consequences which led to greater difficulty in life and discouragement toward holiness.

2. "Please act!" (64:1-5)

Israel knew that God had acted before to save his people, and now they're crying out for him to act again.

Yet if we're honest, we know that our own sins make us undeserving. And we see others all around us who are also sinners, which is also discouraging.

Isaiah's response is profound (v. 4): "...no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him." He is their hope.

The call to wait on him means we must not turn inward in self-pity or passivity. Waiting is an active engagement as we act righteously and remember God's ways.

3. "We are helpless!" (65:6-7)

Why had God not helped his people? Because they had been faithless. As with Paul in Romans 7, the Israelites realized that they had no rightful claim to his love or forgiveness. They were helpless.

Arrogance denies our sinfulness or refuses to wait for God. Humility recognizes our sinfulness and waits for the Lord because he is good.

4. "Please restore us" (64:8-12)

God is again called Father, and Potter (Rom 9:18-21), as the Israelites realize that they are fully in his hands and that he is good.

We don't call the shots: he made us and he molds us.

Questions:

1. Where are you tempted to self-pity? Where do you indulge it?

2. Whose sins are larger in your eyes: yours, or others'?

3. Where are you struggling to wait for the Lord? What is he teaching you in this?