

## DO NOT FEAR FOR I AM WITH YOU - Isa 43:1-5a

### INTRODUCTION

1. Remember a time when you were afraid? Coronavirus is scary.
2. Key: your eyes & ears wh/ connect to your heart.
  - i. "Crisis" - Grk *judgment*: differentiates & shows what is already there.
  - ii. tests & proves our discipleship, our faith - Isa 43:1-5a

### 1st: We Are Commanded Not to Fear

1. Inclusio: v1 & v5 = the imperative & implies be courageous! Challenge b/c we experience fear as tho it happens to us.
2. Lord is not saying "never be afraid," but "stop being afraid." Ps 56:3-4 *When I am afraid* not "if" but "when."
  - i. [2x] - *in You, in God* [2x]; in His word.
  - ii. moves from present [*I am afraid*], to future [*I shall not be afraid*] - how? He chooses *I will, I shall not* - intentional action.
  - iii. what basis? v4 - *in God whose Word I praise*: worship.
    - a. fears God more than enemies or situation '[Lk 12:4-5]
    - b. Fear: speculation, worry - but David *trusts* in Lord [Dan 11:32b].
    - c. Theology, worship, God's Word informs choice to overcome fear
3. Fear is related to 1st commandment: who/what do we trust, have security, hope? Fear God & have nothg else to fear [hymn #522]. Fear arises in proportion to the prospect of a deity's inability to keep us secure.
4. Isa 43:1&5 - *Do not fear* [2x as inclusio]

### 2nd: We Are Not to Fear Because of the Character of Our God

1. v1 - *our Creator - formed us* = language of creation used re: salvation [Eph 2:10; 4:24]. *Called by name* - created by His Word - His sheep hear His voice [Ps 100, 23; Jn 10:3-5]
2. v1,3,4 - *Redeemer, ransomed us* - owns us: v1 *you are mine*. [1Pt 2:9]
3. v3 *YHWH - our God*: Exodus - Jesus NCov Passover lamb, Exodus of resurrection.
4. v3- *the Holy One of Israel* - Isa 6; Jn 12:38-41; Rv 5
5. v3 - *Our Savior* - Jesus [Mt 1:21] - v11
6. Lord seen in relation to us. Recall "theology proper" - Shorter Cat #5.
  - i. Isa 40 = Book of Comfort - v9: "*Behold, here is your God!*"
  - ii. Would you be comforted? Where are you looking? *Here is your God!*

### **3rd: We Are Not to Fear Because of the Covenant We Have with Our God**

1. v4 - we are *precious in God's sight* [Ps 139 never escape Father's sight] *precious* - valuable, desirable [Rm 8:32]
2. We are *honored* - make heavy, dignify, glorify.
3. *I love you* - *loved* by God who is love! [Rv 1:5-6; Jn 17:26b; I Jn 3:1].
4. Contrasted w/ God's dealings w/ other peoples. To *ransom & give in place of* or *in exchange for* = economic terms - pay a price: Passover Lamb, ransom for 1st-born. Jesus our Redeemer paid our redemption.
5. v2&v5 - inclusio: *do not fear - I will be w/ you; I am w/ you*. Command comes w/ covenant promise [Hb 13:5b].
6. When will Lord be w/ us? v2 *When...* not IF. Where will Lord be w/ us? *pass thru* [in middle of, surrounded by] *waters* [like Res Sea]; *rivers* [Jordan] - *walk thru fire* [Neb's furnace - Dan 3]

### **Applic 1: If We Would Overcome Fear, We Must Know Our God**

1. Midst idols & false words - discern voice of Shepherd.
2. Crisis gives opportunity to bring faith into experience: assuring.

### **Applic 2: If We Would Overcome Fear, We Must Know the Word of Our God**

1. Ps 56:3-4b - knowledge of Word - living, loving, personal.
2. Jesus will never leave you - He loves you & keeps His promises.
  - i. Does this mean you can't get the virus?
  - ii. Does this mean you can't die?
  - iii. Jesus will never leave you - never: *Do not fear - I am w/ you*.