

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Isaiah 49

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think of when you hear the phrase “a light to the nations?”
- During Lent, how much do you think about the bigger picture - what Christ did for the world - in addition to what Christ did for you personally? What part do you think the bigger picture plays in preparing our hearts for Easter?

Have you ever waited so long for an answer to pray that you wondered if God had forgotten about you? We learn a lot about waiting for God by studying the stories of the Israelites. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is constantly looking at the bigger picture. In Isaiah 49, God addresses ‘the servant of the Lord’ and gives this servant a mission, not simply to save his people but also to be a light to the nations. This mission extends to us as God’s people and studying Isaiah reveals God’s eternal love for us and his beautiful intentions for his covenant people.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In what ways do you see yourself, fellow Christians, and your church community participating in the servant’s mission to be a light to the nations? Where do you see this mission challenged by an insider/outsider perspective?
- Why is it so radical to believe that God is intimately involved in our lives, that he cares so much for us that he would inscribe our names on the palms of his hands and pierce the hands of Christ to save us?
- In segment 3, host Scott Hoezee talks about God as the great reverser. Where do you see evidence of God, the great reverser when you reflect on Jesus’ journey to the cross during Lent? Where do you see evidence of reversal happening during Jesus’ earthly ministry?
- Waiting for the Lord to do his work can be challenging for us. How does it bring you comfort, reassurance, or encouragement to be reminded in Isaiah 49 that there are no unimportant people to God and that God elevates the lowly to do great things?

Related Passages

- **John 1:1-14**
- **John 8:12**
- **Genesis 12:1-3**
- **Psalms 113:5-9**

Conclusion

During their Groundwork discussion, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee focus on these sections of Isaiah 49: verses 5-7, 13-18, and 22-23. Reread these verses and allow these verses from Isaiah 49 to guide you as you remember and reflect on the work of Jesus Christ, his journey to the cross, and the big picture of his mission. Use the verses as the basis for writing a Lenten prayer that helps you prepare your heart to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

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