

In the Midst

Isaiah 35:3-4

Sermon Outline

A. Don't Give Up (Vs. 4):

1. Encourage – We are commanded not to restrain ourselves, but with deep conviction, serve those who are faint-hearted (Rom. 12: 9-13; 1 Thess. 5:14-15).
2. Exhausted – Those exhausted were the ones who were once in control of what they were trying to accomplish. They felt weak and so fatigued they were unsure they could complete the task. They had become hopeless.
3. Strength – Like a powerful army, we are commanded to exhibit the inner strength of the Holy Spirit (1 Jhn 4:4) and do whatever is necessary to help those who are shaking at the knees (1 Jhn 3:13-22).

a.) The Hebrew for “strengthen” refers to the strength residing in the hand for grasping and holding a thing manually; “confirm” to the firmness with which one keeps his ground, so as not to be dislodged by any other [MAURER]. Encourage the Jews, now desponding, by the assurance of the blessings promised.¹

4. Feeble – Feeble people are individuals who are so weak that they are shaking at the knees and can easily stumble and fall. These individuals feel defeated to the point that their lives appear to be ruined because they lack the ability or opportunity to reach their desired goal.

B. Be Unafraid (Vs. 5):

1. Said – We are commanded to not be quiet and speak up when we see those in need.
2. Anxious heart – We are commanded to speak to those who are feeling a sense of urgency, who respond hurriedly to the distress they are experiencing in the hopes of altering the outcome.
3. Anxious heart – An anxious heart refers to someone overwhelmed by their circumstances; they expend a lot of energy attempting to correct what they're experiencing and therefore alter the end result.

¹ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#) (Vol. 1, pp. 467–468). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

4. Take courage – We are to be brave and not allow the circumstances to restrain or confine us so much that we give up.
5. Take courage – Despite the situations we face, we must be steadfast and applying the inner strength that God provides (Phil. 2:13; 1 Jhn 4:4) regardless of the obstacles.
6. Fear not – We must not allow the circumstances to cause us to be so afraid that we choose not to reverence what the Lord instructed us to do (Joseph, Daniel; Paul's instruction to Timothy – 2 Tim. 1:7; this practical and active fear was shown in the Egyptian midwives and was rewarded by God).
7. Behold – Isaiah turns to focus our attention on the action God takes when our conditions are particularly challenging.
8. Your God – Notice that Isaiah does not say Lord, he emphasizes that God, who is supreme and can create anything from nothing, is sovereign over everything that is taking place.
9. God – By saying Elohim, the entire Godhead is engaged in this action.
10. God will come – God's sovereign decision to interrupt what is taking place is intentional; it fulfills His purposes and will continue His powerful efforts until all is accomplished.
11. Vengeance – When God comes, He will repay harm to those who have harmed His people and will do so in a hostile manner.
12. Recompence of God will come – When God repays those who have harmed us it will be based on what they deserve.
13. He will save you – God, with a specific purpose in mind will “remove or seek to remove someone from a burden, oppression, or danger of defeat.”
14. He will save you – God continuously provides physical deliverance from our enemies or catastrophes.