Sermon Date: October 30, 2016 Pastor: Dan Wilvers

Weekly Action Report

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice.

God's Answer for our Broken Hearts

Isaiah 49:1-16

How can sinful people ever serve a just and holy God? He cannot simply ignore their sin, so what is to be done? Isaiah gives the answer in Chapter 49 to a people who have failed considerably, (people just like you and me).

I. God introduces His Servant who will bring the people back to God.

And now the Lord speaks—the one who formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, who commissioned me to bring Israel back to him. The Lord has honored me, and my God has given me strength. 6 He (God the Father) says to Me (God the Son), "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." Isaiah 49:5,6

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. Isaiah 49:13

This is one of many announcements in the Old Testament, that began all the way back in the Garden, when Adam and Eve fell. That God, Himself will do something to rectify and restore us back to Him. Here we also see the promise is for all humanity.

Action Step: Just sit back in awe and accept God's great goodness to come after us despite our rebellion against Him. Give Him thanks every day this week!

II. Human despondency can overcome us despite God's promises. "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." Isaiah 49:14

Why is that? It's human nature to be down. Let's face it, you tell a human heart, "You're trash. You're despicable," and you never forget those words. And If you tell a human heart, "You're

great. I like you," it fades so fast. The moral is that human heart falls into despondence in spite of claims of love.

Action Step: Tell yourself today I will trust what God says no matter what I feel.

III. God directs us in how to trust Him.

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! Isaiah 49:15

"Think of who I am."

What amazing imagery God uses to demonstrate what His love for us looks like. A nursing child (us) a doting Mom (God).

Action Step: Think about the unconditional love a Mom has for her baby, and the tireless devotion, care, and emotional connection she feels for it, and remind yourself right now that God loves just as you are and that He considers you His child.

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; Isaiah 49:16

"Look what I've done."

Again amazing imagery. To be engraved means your permanently and prominently a fixed upon God's heart. You cannot be washed away or worn off. Engraved also means something skillfully a fixed that leaves a lasting and beautiful impression. God is delighted in you.

Action Step: Stop doubting God's love for you. Revel in it, because of Jesus Christ work on the cross for you!

Christianity says the very righteousness of God, is on your side now through Jesus Christ. If you think I'm exaggerating, that's the reason 1 John 1:9, says,

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins ..."

It says if God would not continually accept those of us who believed in Jesus Christ, he would be unjust God. That means God's whole nature is now for us. As much as sin separated us from God, in Christ nothing can separate us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Much love to my brothers and sisters in Christ at Sierra, such an honor to pastor you all!