

Series: Isaiah Series 2023
Title: Fear Not: I Am, I Will
Text: Is 43: 5-7
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Subject: Fear Not: I Am, I Will.

Our text is Christ's word to us as we preach Christ and him crucified.

Isaiah 43: 5: Fear not: for I *am* with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 6: I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; 7: *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Each of us called by our Savior's name, Christ created us for his glory. This means several things. One, Christ created us for the purpose that *we, personally, give him all the glory* in our salvation. Two, Christ created us for the purpose of using us *to preach his glory* as he calls his chosen people. So as we preach Christ *we glory only in Christ*. He says, "*Fear not.*"

Proposition: Each time our Lord had told us to fear not, it has been in regard to us not fearing men as we preach the gospel.

ISAIAH 41

In Isaiah 41, Christ warned that as we preach Christ, sinners will war against us. But the Lord promises to keep us fearing him alone by the work Christ works toward those who reject him. He says, thereby, he will make us glory only in the Lord rather than fearing men.

Isaiah 41: 10: Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. 11: Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. 12: Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, *even* them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. 13: For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. 14: Fear not, thou worm Jacob, *and* ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. 15: Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. 16: Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

He makes us fear not men, but glory only in the Lord, by this work Christ works toward his enemies through the gospel.

This is important because whoever we fear is who we glorify. The fear of man is what makes religious folks deny Christ. The parents of the blind man our Lord gave sight were brought to the synagogue. The Pharisee's questioned them. His parents knew Christ gave him sight but they denied Christ. They said, "Our sons is of age, let him answer for himself."

John 9: 22: These *words* spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

John 7: 13: [at the feast of tabernacles, men murmured amongst themselves about Christ] Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

John 12:42:...among the chief rulers also many believed on [Christ]; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Can a sanctified, holy child of God fall into this snare? The apostle Peter was a holy child of God. Why did he move from the Gentiles table to the Jews?

Galatians 2:12: For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Brethren, Christ created us for his glory. So it is by Christ speaking effectually into our hearts, "Fear not" that Christ will keep us glorying only in him.

Matthew 10: 27: What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops. 28: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29: Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31: Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

ISAIAH 43

Isaiah 43: 1: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. 2: When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

The fires of trial are caused most by those who reject us because they reject Christ we preach. Why did Nebuchadnezzar throw the children of Judah in the fire? Hatred of the gospel. Chapter 42 ends with God pouring out judgment on the people. As we preach the gospel, and unregenerate sinners hear Christ receive all the glory in salvation, they hear judgment upon them because the gospel gives Christ all the glory.

1 Corinthians 1: 29: That no flesh shall glory in his presence. 30: But of God are ye in Christ Jesus; who of God is made unto us Wisdom, and Righteousness, and Sanctification and Redemption; 31: That as it is written, He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord.

The gospel takes the focus off man and his works and puts it on Christ's person and works. The gospel declares all men sinners, unable to keep the law. The gospel is that Christ alone is the Righteousness of his people. The carnal mind is enmity against God: men mind the flesh; they want the focus on their works, therefore, men hate the gospel of Christ. That caused more trials to Paul and the early church than anything else.

We saw Thursday, Christ did not work in the hearts of the Pharisees. So Christ's gospel and his perfect works exposed the Pharisees so-called righteous and holy works as only sin. So they opposed Christ continually (John 15: 22-24) We hated Christ, too. The difference is the Holy Spirit sanctifies the gospel to those Christ redeemed so that we come to Christ the Light confessing all our works are sin and Christ alone worked all the works by which we are saved.

Christ created us for his glory. So he commands effectually in our hearts, "*Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*" If men cast you the fire the flame shall not burn or even kindle upon thee.

The third time our Lord says, "Fear not" is our text. It is in regard to the fear we have when we do not see sinners coming to hear the gospel or being converted. Our fear is because we do not think it is happening as quickly or in as great a numbers as we would like. This is a kind of a fear of man as well. So Christ says to us, "*Fear not, I am with thee.*"

I AM WITH THEE

Isaiah 43: 5: Fear not: for I *am* with thee:

In each passage we just read in Isaiah, the way Christ assured us we have no reason to fear.

Isaiah 41: 10:...for I *am* with thee

Isaiah 43: 2: I *will be* with thee;

Isaiah 43: 5: Fear not: for I *am* with thee:

When Christ gave the great commission to go forth preaching Christ, this is how he assured the church not to fear.

Matthew 28: 18:...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...20...and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

When Paul first went to Corinth, he was opposed.

Acts 18:9: Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10: For I AM WITH THEE, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. 11: And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

I WILL

Isaiah 43: 5: Fear not: for I am with thee. I will bring...I will say...

He commands us not to fear, declaring it is Christ himself who will call his lost sheep. We see how foolish it is for sinners to boast in *their will*. Christ promises, "*I will bring*" my lost sheep. Christ promises, "*I will say*", I will speak effectually in their hearts. Christ will call and plant his lost sheep in his church under his gospel.

Psalm 65:4: Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Why must a sinner be brought to faith in Christ by Christ's will? He said, "*I created you for my glory!*" It is Christ's glory to call his people by his will and his power. So when folks boast of their will, it is an evident token that the Spirit of God has not regenerated them. God says,

Ezekiel 39:27: When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 28: Then shall they know that I *am* the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: BUT I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

It has always amazed me how you showed up here one day out of the blue. And Christ made you hear him speak and planted you. A few years after I first came here, someone said to me, "You will have your work cut out for you chasing after me and keeping me coming back." I said, "No, I was not chasing you when you came here. If Christ brought you and speaks in your heart you will be planted."

Jeremiah 32: 40...I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Peter said, "To whom shall we go. Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." (Jn 6: 68-69).

THY SEED

Isaiah 43: 5: Fear not...I will bring thy seed...

Christ assures us we have no reason to fear by declaring those lost sheep are "thy seed." Scripture calls the church a mother. Christ is our Husband producing children through us preaching the incorruptible Seed. So the lost sheep Christ shall call are our seed, our children.

Isaiah 49: 22: Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders.

Psalms 113:9: He maketh the barren woman to keep house, *and to be* a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

After Christ redeemed his people in Isaiah 53, before Christ arose to God's right hand the church appeared a barren wife. There were only 120 gathered at Pentecost. But Christ said,

Isaiah 54: 1: Sing, O barren, thou *that* didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou *that* didst not travail with child: for more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. 2: Enlarge the place of thy tent...3: For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited...5 For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. [his people shall praise him throughout the whole earth]

Isaiah 59:21: As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

When the Lord opens the door for us to bear witness of Christ to someone, it will help us not to fear, if we remember, this one might be "my seed." The only way to know is to preach Christ to them.

CHRIST KNOWS AND CHRIST IS POWER

Isaiah 43: 5...I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 6: I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;"

Our Lord assures us we have no reason to fear because Christ shall call his people no matter where they are. Christ knows where his lost sheep are in the east, west, north and south, Christ shall call them.

John 1: 48:...Jesus...said unto [Nathanael], Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

He must needs go through Samaria because Christ knew he had a lost sheep in the Samaritan woman. This congregation is an example. We have brethren here who Christ has called from many miles north, south, east and west. My grandfather used to say, "Sheep will travel a long way for green pasture."

No matter how the devil tries to keep them back, "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against Christ. *"I will say to the North, give up; and to the south, keep not back..."*

Psalms 22:27..all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. 28: For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.

Christ is using his church to preach him by which Christ makes the new heaven and new earth. Notice in Isaiah 51 the Lord says he created the first creation. But he will destroy it one day. Yet, he says that he put his word in our mouth to preach him. Each time he calls one of his lost sheep he is creating the new heaven and the new earth.

Isaiah 51: 4: Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law [the gospel] shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. 5: My righteousness *is* near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. [we heard that in Is 42] 6: Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: [first creation] for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. [the unseen is eternal] 7:

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, [that know Christ your Righteousness] the people in whose heart *is* my law [my gospel]; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings....12 I, *even* I, *am* he that comforteth you: [I am with you] who *art* thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man *that* shall die, and of the son of man *which* shall be made *as* grass; 13: And forgettest the LORD THY MAKER, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; [he said I am thy Maker that created the first creation]... 15: But [here he declares he is making a new creation] I *am* the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: [this speaks of the new creation, salvation. Christ divided the Red Sea and delivered Israel. Watch this] The LORD of hosts *is* his name. 16: And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the [new] heavens, and lay the foundations of the [new] earth, and say unto Zion, Thou *art* my people.

Brethren, that is assurance that Christ shall call his people. Our Maker is using us to preach HIM, by which he is calling his people, creating the new heaven and new earth.

THE WORKS ARE FINISHED BEFORE

The most assuring word of all is that even before he calls his lost sheep personally, our Lord has already called them by his name, he already created, already formed, already made us. Notice the tenses,

Isaiah 43: 5...I WILL bring thy seed...7: *Even* every one that IS called by my name: for I HAVE created him for my glory, I HAVE formed him; yea, I HAVE made him.

God's people were called, created, formed and made when God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. The works were finished from the foundation of the world. Paul used the same good news to encourage Timothy to preach the gospel.

2 Timothy 1: 6: Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9: Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

The Lord told Jeremiah,

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Christ already redeemed his people by his precious blood and ascended to God's right hand. Even his lost sheep are seated there with him right now. Therefore, he shall call each one to faith because Christ satisfied justice for them.

Galatians 4: 3: Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, THAT we might receive [be given] the adoption of sons. 6: And BECAUSE YE ARE SONS [before he called us], God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Oh, brethren! Let us rest where David rested.

Ps 27:1: [David said] The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2: When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. 3: Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will* I *be* confident [he just declared it: the Lord is the strength of my life]...5: For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. 6: And now

shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Amen!