

God is on the move. Will you follow?

Isaiah 43:18, 19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Context to the passage: Isaiah's writings to the children of Israel came at a bleak period of their history. They are in captivity, they have lost everything they thought they would keep forever, and they were home sick for the land and the blessing God had promised them.

Just looking at the situation the children of Israel was finding themselves in. I cannot recall a time when I lost everything or let alone a time I was homesick. [Share illustration]

Looking at our passage Isaiah points out to forget the former things and not to dwell on the past

For you to embracing the new thing what God wants to do in your life you will need to:

I. CHANGE YOUR FOCUS -- QUIT LOOKING BEHIND START LOOKING HEAD

If you are continually looking behind you cannot see where you are going. The children of Israel find themselves in captivity. And now they being told to forget the former things

What were their former things?

A. Their many victories in their past:

1. Leaving Egypt
2. Conquering the Land of Canaan
3. Fighting of prospective conquerors
4. Survived a split in their country

The former things are not always bad things. So why are they being told to forget it and not to dwell on the pass

You Cannot Depend Upon Past Victories to Sustain You

Does this apply to us today? YES.

How often don't we dwell on our great victories? Those great moments and events. There is nothing wrong with reflecting BUT **sometimes you lose focus on what is God doing in your life right now?** And we can't see what he is doing

Secondly, in order to move on to new things in Christ you must know that ...

B. You Cannot Allow Your Past Failures to Possess You

... do not dwell on the past.

How many of us keep looking back saying If only

ILLUSTRATION OF SON & MOTHER

Young man who had made it big had been away from home a long time travelling to exotic places all over the world. He had not been very attentive to his widowed mother. His conscience began to bother him and he decided to do something about it. He sent her a unique gift, a rare South American parrot for which he'd paid \$1200.

Well, time went by. Two weeks, three weeks, and he heard nothing. And the fourth week he called. When he got his mom on the phone he said, "Did you get the bird I sent you?"

"Oh yes!"--It was so nice; I cooked it the day after it came. It was delicious!"

"You cooked it! Mom, that was a rare South American parrot. It cost me \$1200. That parrot could speak five languages."

"My goodness, son," the mother responded. "If only YOU had said something."
If only!

The children of Israel had failed God miserably. Every time He blessed them with good things, they returned to Him evil things:

1. God gave them the Temple - they gave Him idol worship
2. God gave them truth - they lived and proclaimed a lie
3. God gave them His commands - they lived like they were suggestions.
4. God gave them wealth - they used it to abuse the poor
5. God gave them Himself - they gave Him nothing except rejection.

The children of Israel did not deserve to receive anything from God. Yet He still loved them

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!

God was not condemning them for their past, they could do nothing to change it. Instead God was

HOLDING OUT THE HAND OF HOPE. Forget about your past -- I am giving you an opportunity to start over.

C. You Cannot Live on Yesterday's Faith

The children of Israel had experienced great spiritual blessings throughout their history. From the first Passover, to the crossing of the Red Sea, to the conquering of the Land of Canaan, to the building of the temple,

Their old faith was not sufficient enough to de-liver them from their present problems. **They needed a new faith, a new vision for what God could do. They needed a new portion of the faith to bring them out of captivity.**

The 2nd step to embracing the new thing what God wants to do in your life is to

II. CLARIFY YOUR FOCUS -- DISCOVER WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Hope Church What do you see when you view your life? Do you see possibilities or problems? Notice what God said:

**I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.**

In order to discover what God wants for you,
A. You Must First See Yourself as God Sees you

In order to discover what God wants for you,
B. You Must See Your Possibilities as God Sees Them
I am making a way in the desert ...

Only God is able to transform the desert areas of your life into fields of blessing and abundance. God can take a dried up life and trans-form it into a life of purpose and grace:

Illustration: Testimony

2 Corinthians 3:17, 18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The greatest step to embracing the new thing what God wants to do in your life is to
III. COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD'S PLAN

In our passage today God had already set into motion the events and people who would lead Israel out of captivity and back into the land of blessing. But it was still up to them to decide if they wanted what God was offering.

The word says I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Today do you believe that God has already set into motion a new direction and a new purpose for your life -- will you follow Him?

Psalms 95:7, 8 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pas-true, and the sheep of His hand.

GOD IS ON THE MOVE! WILL YOU FOLLOW?

Close in Prayer