

Comfort Food
Isaiah 40:1-11

Review:

1. We can take comfort that the Word of God never changes, and that it will never lead us astray
2. We can take comfort that Christ has come to raise up the lowly by the blood of His cross
3. We can take comfort that Christ is coming again in glory to humble the proud and straighten everything out

Reflect:

1. Is it important for you that God's Word "stands forever?" Why?
2. What part of Christ's earthly ministry gives you the most comfort?
3. When you think about the return of Christ, what part of His promise gives you the most comfort?

Go further: Read Luke 3:1-18

1. According to verse 2, what came to John? Where was he when he received this message?
2. As a result of this message, where did John preach? What did he urge people to do?
3. Verses 4-6 quote from Isaiah 40. Whose path is the one crying in the wilderness preparing?
4. What does verse 5 say the Lord will do to the ravines and the mountains?
5. What does verse 6 promise that everyone will see?
6. According to verse 7, who was going out to John and for what reason? What did John call his listeners?
7. In verse 8, what did John urge his listeners to do?
8. Why did John insist that his listeners not put their faith in the fact that they were descendants of Abraham?
9. In verse 9, what did John say would happen to trees that did not bear fruit?
10. What did John tell all the people to do in verse 11?
11. What did John tell the tax-collectors to do in verse 13?
12. What did John tell the soldiers to do in verse 14?
13. According to verse 15, what were people wondering about John?
14. In verse 16, how does John describe the Christ, the One Whose way he was preparing?
15. How did John compare his baptism with the way that the Christ would baptize His followers?
16. In the Ancient Near East, workers would use a fan to throw threshed grain into the wind, allowing the lighter chaff to blow away, while the heavier kernels would fall back to the threshing floor. How does John compare this process to the Christ's judgment of the nations?

Summary and Application:

1. Looking at the examples of behavior that John gave his listeners in verses 10-14, what sort of fruit do you think God is calling you to bear? What concrete steps can you take to show the love of Christ more clearly to the people around you?
2. How do you react to John's description of Christ's coming judgment? Do you wonder about your eternal fate? Or does the cross of Christ give you comfort?