

PRAYER BULLETIN #199, 26MAR2022

REMEMBERING AND ANCHORING

*"I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the
Lord has done for us - yes, the many good things he has
done for Israel, according to his compassion and many
kindnesses."
Isaiah 63:7*

REFLECTION

When we simply read what Isaiah wrote in this verse, some may quickly think that Isaiah must have been a prophet during a blessed time in Israel - where the nation's economy must have been thriving and there were no threats to the nation's sovereignty. There must not have been a lot of sickness.

But as we read the whole of Isaiah 63, we start to realize that Isaiah wrote this verse in the middle of a national crisis. In verses 8-9 Isaiah talked about God who joined the people in their distress, redeemed and saved them. In humility, Isaiah framed this crisis as a product of the nation's own rebellion. And in hope, Isaiah asked God to once again remember them, for God was kind and merciful even when the Israelites were forgetful and rebellious.

Today we find ourselves also in a world where national securities are also challenged just like the Israelites in Isaiah's day. The chaos that war brings today were also rampant in Isaiah's day. And the same God who has been faithful to Israel continues to be faithful today. Likewise, we as God's people can be the Isaiahs of our generation in at least two areas: remembering God and anchoring our hope in Him.

Firstly, Isaiah spent time remembering what God had done for Israel, humbling himself to learn from Israel's past mistakes and of God's faithfulness. Take the time to research on how God has been moving in the country you currently reside in. Share with others what you have discovered! For those of us in Singapore, we remember that we were once identified by the late Billy Graham as an Antioch of Asia. In the current COVID crisis and regional instability how are we, as a Singaporean church, fulfilling God's mandate for Singapore to reach out to the nations?

Secondly, Isaiah anchored himself in the hope that is found in trusting God's compassion and kindness. Instead of giving in to the pressures of the world to trust in weapons and wit, Isaiah called for repentance and a spiritual watchfulness for God's people. As a church, let us keep our eyes on Jesus as we proclaim the foundation that shall keep us from falling. We will tell of the kindness of the LORD, the deeds for which He is to be praised, according to all that He has done for us. Indeed, the many good things He has done for all of us, according to his compassion.

PRAYER

Our Faithful God, help us to remember all that you have done for us and grant us the faith and the courage to anchor ourselves in Your promises and your person. Help us not to focus on things that remove our attention from what you are doing and give us the strength to encourage others that You have a plan and You are still in control, in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for peace in the world - Ukraine, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen and Myanmar have been experiencing war, threats, political instability, and violence towards many civilians. May God send peace and peace-makers amongst them as Christ's body is activated for the Mission. may more homes be opened as sanctuaries for refugees, churches as stations for healing and Christians as ambassadors for reconciliation.
- Pray for the Covid-19 situation in Singapore. May the next season of easing be met with a safe transition for everyone. Pray for a spirit of consideration and thoughtfulness for one another as restrictions eases.
- We praise God for the new VTL lanes especially for those with family abroad: may God continue to open these safe channels to allow for families to be reunited in this season.
- Pray for the churches in Singapore as they discern the call of God in this season to be the channel of holiness and blessing to the world today.

"Powerful motivation for believing God in our present is intentionally remembering how He's worked in our past."

- Beth Moore

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly

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