

New Life: Isaiah 43: 18-19, Philippians 3:7-11

[Uncle Ricco from Napoleon Dynamite]—nothing more boring and ridiculous than the guy who can't get over his high school glory. "Time to move on!"

How often we grow stale in our lives. We remember the encounters or progress of the past more fondly than the hope of today. [my malaise over old pastor's reports]

The glories or the hurts of the past can hold us hostage---individually or corporately

The heart of the Good News of Jesus, the tangible power of Jesus is that He alone can make things NEW! Doesn't matter how good or bad you did or how good or bad was done to you, Life with Jesus declares a NEW DAY!

I. Isaiah Shouts to Us! (Isaiah 43: 18-19)

- To those in Babylonian Exile
- Forget the former things [disobedience and failures]
- See the Vision of the New [God of mercy and forgiveness will renew]
- A New Exodus (43: 14-17)

II. Paul Shows Us How (Philippians 3:7-11)

- Acknowledge it (v.7) [wins or wounds]
- Compare it (v.8) [Is there anything good or bad that negates the work of God in Christ Jesus?]
- Trash it (v. 8b)
- Say it! (v. 10) "I want to know Christ!"

III. Choose one or the Other!

- [Not like your favorite Jeans or an Old Car]
- You cannot have the new and hang on to the old!

Close: [The bulb in springtime] below the surface, new begins, breaks through

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Small Group Questions Week of 3/22/10

Getting to Know You

1. Have you ever been awarded a trophy for anything? What was it? How did you feel?
2. Do you ever find yourself reliving the "glory days", whatever those were for you? Maybe it was high school sports or college revelry. Do you ever dream about the "good old days"? Share with the group some of your fond memories of days gone by.
3. What happens when we try to re-live those times of the past? Can we ever really go back?
4. In your heart, do you believe the best is yet to come or already gone by? Be honest.

Getting in the Scriptures

1. God has something to say about the past. Put Isaiah 43: 18-19 in your own words. What is God saying about the past?
2. Pastor Sam implied that the Good News of Jesus is that we can get over the past and embrace something fresh and new from God. Can you think of any Biblical characters who had this experience? (hint: Check out Acts 9 or Read 2 Samuel 11 – 12:14 along with Psalm 51)
3. Besides our conversion/salvation, do we ever need to put away the past? As an illustration, imagine trying to navigate a river by standing up with your right foot in one canoe and your left in another. This is what happens when we try to hold on to our past wins or wounds, and still move into the future God has for us.
4. Re-read Isaiah 43: 18-19 and remember that these folks needed to forget their "wounds". These Israelites were prisoners of war in Babylon. Their sin had led to their destruction in spite of the prophet's warnings. What can we do about our "wounds" according to this text?
5. Re-read Philippians 3: 7-11. Paul is talking here about his "wins". All the good of his past he now forsakes, for what? What is the key to getting over our "wounds" or our "wins"?

@ The End of the Day

1. Can you remember what the acronym A.C.T.S. stood for from the sermon on Sunday?

A_____ It.

C_____ It.

T _____ It.

S _____ It.

2. Looking back over your week, was there any evidence that you want Christ more than anything?
What would it take for this week to be different?