

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Discuss

1. Have you ever given much thought to the idea that “Reality is our friend”? What do you make of this statement? Where and how have you seen this principle operate in your life?
2. Why is it helpful to ask “What is wrong here”? How does this question help us get to the root of our problems? Why do we often use our emotional responses to define reality? Why is this rarely helpful or effective?
3. How does Isaiah function as a Prosecuting Attorney in chapter 1 of the book? Who is convening the court? Who is serving as the jury? What are the charges being brought?
4. Do you ever consider yourself to be guilty of violence, injustice or lack of compassion? In what ways? How are these words and indictments more far-reaching than we might first see them? How might they apply to us?
5. Do you agree with the statement “We reap what we sow”? Why or why not? Do you think there is sense in which life or the universe reacts against those who disregard God’s principles for living?
6. What does it look like in our day to have compassion on “widows and orphans”? If Isaiah were speaking to us, on whom might he call us to have compassion? How do we practically and consistently show compassion to those in need?
7. Is there a reality in your life that you have been denying or refusing to name? If you are bold enough, share that situation with your Life Group. Ask if they have any insight that could help you effectively define your reality. How might your reality begin to change?
8. Isaiah weaves a clear message of hope all though his opening argument. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow.” “If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.” “Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.” (Isaiah 1:18-27 selections). In what place in your life do you need to hear those words of hope today?

