

Introduction:

1. “In His Time”—What a great song! Our God is so wise. He does all things in His time..
 - a. Someone says, “That sounds good. But I need God to help me in my time, on my schedule! I am having tough days and I need for God to act now. None of this waiting stuff!”
 - b. Nearly *everyone* who serves God has felt like that at least once. Have you ever felt like that?
2. In the book of Isaiah we find God’s people in that very situation; they wanted action, Isaiah 40:27.
 - a. Their complaint is that they believe God does not see their plight. It is hidden from Him. And, that they have a just claim, but God is not giving them the justice they need.
 - b. This is dealing with a time when the people of God were being afflicted by their enemies. They acted like God had cast them off and that they were no longer His people.
3. What would God say in answer to these complaints? What would He say to us in such a time?

The Lesson:**I. “Remember who you are.”**

- A. God calls them by their name. He calls them by “Jacob” and by “Israel.” The use of these terms is to emphasize that they are the people of God. God does not forget His people!
 1. These names are not casually used. God has a purpose in this. He wants them to remember their heritage and all that He has done for them for more than 1,000 years!
 2. God had called Jacob, the grandson of Abraham to be the progenitor of this great nation. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel for a purpose, Genesis 35:9-12; 32:28. “Israel” means “one who prevails with God” or “Prince of God.”
 3. The man Jacob wore the name Israel. Now the nation that came from him wears the name. When God speaks to Israel in Isaiah, He reminds them of who they are! God always vindicates His people. He never forgets His own, Isaiah 40:11.
- B. When you are down and discouraged remember who you are and the price paid to redeem you—the precious blood of Christ. God paid a high price for you, 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:9-10. Don’t think God doesn’t care or doesn’t hear your prayer or that He will not act.

II. “Remember who I am.”

- A. Israel might have forgotten who they were. They might also have forgotten who God is. And so, He reminds them, Isaiah 40:28.
 1. Israel was a knowing people. They had knowledge of God more than any people on earth! At least they should have known. But in this time of distress, have they forgotten?
 2. So God reminds them of who He is: “...the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator...” He made the earth and is in charge of whatever happens on the earth! He has no deficiency!

3. Was He too tired to help them, or did He not understand their plight or what to do? Never!
 4. The Lord understood their problems and had already helped them, Isaiah 1:7-9.
- B. When you are down and discouraged remember who the Lord is. He is the Almighty God who cares for you, 1 Peter 5:6-7; Philippians 4:19. These words were written by men who suffered more than any of us in God's cause. But they remembered who their God was!

III. "Remember what I can do."

- A. God promised to act and give help to His people.
1. He will deal with their enemies, Isaiah 40:21-24. Again, He calls their attention to who He is and to His power. God is going to deal with their enemies by bringing them to nothing!
 2. But God is also going to deal with His people.
 - a. God helps the weak, Isaiah 40:29. He gives power to those who are ready to give up. Look at your life. Have you ever thought it was hopeless and that you would have no strength to carry on? You were wrong, weren't you? You made it this far! God has brought you this far; He will take you further. It is as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:16.
 - b. God helps the willing, Isaiah 40:30-31. Those who are willing to trust in Him receive help from Him. You may be young and strong (physically and mentally) but old and dead (spiritually). Without the Lord, you will fall! But with the Lord, you will have renewed strength every day—strength to work, wrestle, resist and bear.
- B. God wanted Israel to remember His power, His help and what He can do. He wants us to do the same. When you are down, get up! You can do that by remembering God's power. We win if we persevere. We win if we don't give up on God. It was true then; it is true now!

IV. "Therefore, wait on Me!"

- A. God makes great promises to those who wait on Him, Isaiah 40:31. It is "In His Time" that He acts! We may ask, "Why doesn't God do everything now? Why do we have to wait?"
1. Why did Abraham and Sarah have to wait 25 years before God gave them a son?
 2. Why did Israel have to wait 400 years to be delivered from Egyptian bondage?
 3. Why did Israel have to suffer 40 years in the wilderness, waiting for the Promised Land?
 4. Why did David have to wait until Solomon was king before the temple could be built?
 5. Why did mankind have to wait so long until the coming of a Savior?
- B. All of these questions may be answered by Galatians 4:4. "In the fullness of time..."
1. When the time is right, God acts. He knows when that time is. We don't.
 2. We don't know, so we trust! Are you waiting for blessing from God? Then continue to wait. Answer to prayer? Comfort in grief? Relief from worries about family? Wait!

Conclusion:

1. We continue to do what is right, no matter what life brings, Romans 2:7; Hebrews 12:1-2. We persevere in the midst of trials, believing that our God will help us. We wait on the Lord...in His time.
2. Wait on the Lord. But don't wait to obey Him and serve Him. This is your time, 2 Corinthians 6:2.