

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE GIFTS GOD GIVES IN SURPRISING WAYS"

Big Idea: God gives the gifts we most need through his Son and his zeal.

Discuss

Because of electricity, we rarely experience total darkness that can't be illuminated through the flick of a switch. The Israelites of Isaiah's and Jesus' time were quite familiar, however, with "thick darkness" that was barely penetrated by the trembling flame of an oil lamp. The prophecies of Isaiah were also spoken to a people who were experiencing the deep gloom of anguish, an anguish that was both spiritual and physical. If we fail to consider the depth of the Israelites'—and our—need for the light of Jesus, we will not fully comprehend the true wonder of Isaiah's pronouncement.

- 1) Read Isaiah 8:22, Psalm 44:13-26, and Ephesians 2:1-2.
 - What is dark about the world outside of us?
 - What is dark about the world within us?
- 2) Look at verses 2 through 5. What kinds of things is God pictured as doing? We looked at Judges 7 in the discussion questions a few weeks ago, but you may want to re-visit that passage to review the role that God played in the defeat of Midian.
- 3) Take some time to discuss the titles of Jesus given in verse 6.
 - What attributes of God are revealed in these titles?
 - How do these attributes guarantee his people's liberation and preservation?
- 4) What is the zeal of the LORD Almighty? (v. 7 and Isa. 42:13)
 - How is it different from human zeal?
- 5) The blind pastor and hymn writer George Matheson penned two hymns that picture the security and strength found because we are held so tightly by the Lord. One we sing often: "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go." The other is perhaps less well-known: "Make Me a Captive, Lord." The end of one of its verses says, "I sink in life's alarms, when by myself I stand; imprison me within thine arms, and strong shall be my hand."
 - What does the coming of Jesus into the world and his death and resurrection enable us to do?

DATE: December 3, 2017

SPEAKER: Joe/Jared

SERIES: Anticipating Christ's
Coming

PASSAGE: Isaiah 9:1-7

Pray

Praise God for the great light that came into the darkness when Jesus was born.

Confess your tendency to look for security in other places and other ways besides the embrace of our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Thank God for the zeal with which he pursues and defends his people.

"O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death." (*ancient Advent prayer*)

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS
Child Evangelism Fellowship

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS
Joy and Roger Gulick: LMPC-based missionary care