

The main points again...

Answering the accusations of the people:

"My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God?"

Isaiah 40.27
Cf. Psalm 42.9-12

A different servant?

Hearing and not hearing; seeing and not seeing

'You have seen many things, but have paid no attention;
your ears are open, but you hear nothing.'

Cf. Isaiah 6, Matthew 7.24ff.

'Hello!'

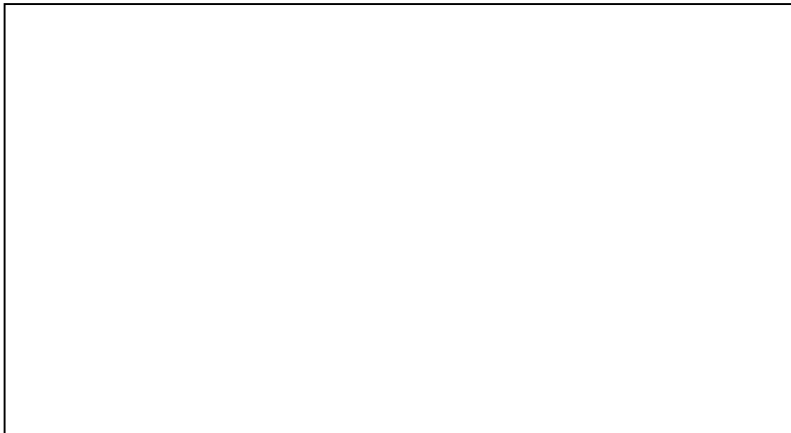
Recognising God in the judgement of exile,

Who handed Jacob over to become loot,
and Israel to the plunderers?

Was it not the LORD,
against whom we have sinned?

Isaiah 42.24

Will the servant listen now or not understand again?



'Do not fear for I have redeemed you', 'You are mine!'

God's Reseal word

'I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation for you'
Isaiah 43.6

Remembering God the rescuer

Avoiding the danger of losing the plot

Memory aids...cf. Joshua 4.8-9

Choosing an inattentive servant as a witness

Forgetting

'Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.'

Isaiah 43.18.
Cf. Haggai 2.9

'Faith requires a 'thick memory' that is always letting ancient miracles be re-enacted in always fresh and daring ways...Israel cannot slough off what is old; but Israel cannot stay there either, for God is moving on to a fresh, present tense that is indeed different from what was.' - Walter Brueggemann

'Behold I am making all things new'

Revelation 21.5

Christ's resurrection- an event in the past which shapes our present and determines our future

Christ has died

Christ has risen

Christ will come again

So what...

When you find yourself in difficult situations do you feel comfortable arguing with God?

The Psalms seem to regard this as normal

Read Isaiah 6.9-13, cf. Matthew 7.24ff

Now look at Isaiah 42.20

What has changed about God's Servant Israel during the exile?

Who caused the exile? Read Isaiah 42.21-25

Can we end up not finding God's will because we are asking the wrong questions- questions about ourselves rather than about God?

Can you think of examples? Pray

Read Isaiah 43.1-21

What causes God to change course?

Repentance on the people's part? Cf. Romans 5.8

What value does it appear that God puts on his people here?

I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation for you'
(*The Message v.6*)

Do you feel valued by God? Do you express the value of others in your relationships at church and beyond?

What do you have to help you remember God? Cf. Josh 4.8-9

What might Isaiah 43.18 mean for you or for us as church in Croxley Green right now?

Discuss the importance of past, present and future in your faith

Think about 'Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again! Pray

Sunday April 13th 2008



Hope out of Town

Isaiah 42.18-43.21

**Devoted to Christ,
his people, his mission**