

Isaiah 48

7-28-05

“Lean on Me!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Pray for India** - Monsoon killed 500 in Bombay area. Record 37.1 inches in 1 day. (Explain city slum area, where 5 million of the cities 16 million live – 28 GFA pastors in the area are safe!)
 - 1.1.1. 12 GFA church buildings swept away.
 - 1.1.2. They are in terrible suffering.

2. LEAN ON ME! (1-22)

- 2.1. **Personal!** (1-11)
- 2.2. (1) I swear to God!
 - 2.2.1. Didn't you stop saying this when you got saved? **Why?**
 - 2.2.1.1. **Your yes became your yes!** (I hope)
- 2.3. (2a) **They call themselves** – name only (posers).
 - 2.3.1. Their **pedigree** is impeccable, **right words** in worship, but there is **no truth** or **righteousness** in them.
 - 2.3.1.1. As **Jesus** gave the same charge to the **religious leaders** of his day, “**Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their *lips*, But their *heart* is far from Me. And *in vain* they worship Me, Teaching as *doctrines the commandments of men.*” Mark 7:6,7**
 - 2.3.2. **It is** always dangerous using the **right formula**(vs.2).
 - 2.3.3. **It is** easy to get into “**a rut of a religious routine**” of church attendance, giving, singing, worshiping...**but all w/o heart.**
 - 2.3.4. **It is** a **privilege** to bear the name of God.
 - 2.3.4.1. **With privilege** comes **responsibility.** (armed services)
- 2.4. (2b) **Lean on God** – **Like a crutch!**
 - 2.4.1. D.C. Talk remade that song, “Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend - I'll help you carry on - For it won't be long -
'Til I'm gonna need - Somebody to lean on”
 - 2.4.1.1. **Yet** this “**Somebody**” here, isn't leaning on a friend, but on **God** Himself!
 - 2.4.2. **Q: What is a crutch?** – A walking aid, something providing help or support.
 - 2.4.2.1. A **cane**, or **crutch**, or **walking stick**, usually points to a weakness in the leg in which one needs to lean their weight upon it for balance, or strength.
 - 2.4.3. **No matter how weak you are**(or feel), **you can lean on Him!**

- 2.4.4. “You say He’s a crutch, then I’m going to lean on him!”
- 2.4.5. Heb.11:21 “By faith **Jacob**, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and **worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.**”
- 2.5. **Israel** = means “*struggles with God*” (Jacob wrestling) [Gen.32:28]
- 2.6. (4a) **Obstinate** – hard, stubborn, cruel, difficult.
- 2.6.1. They were indicted for their **hypocrisy & obstinacy.**
- 2.7. (4b) **Iron sinew** – once flexible now stiff. (like y C-6 Discectomy, now cage)
- 2.7.1. **Sinew** = a tissue that attaches a muscle to the bone. Means to stretch. A.k.a. tendon, which gives muscle & bone its flexibility.
- 2.7.1.1. **No flexibility, like wearing a suit of armor.**
- 2.8. (5) He didn’t want some idol getting the glory!
- 2.9. (8) A constant refrain of history. The problem of all mankind...**a sinner from the womb!**
- 2.9.1. Ps.51:5 “Behold, I was **brought forth** in iniquity, And in sin my mother **conceived me.**”
- 2.9.2. Ps.58:3 “The wicked are estranged **from the womb**; They go **astray as soon as they are born**, speaking lies.”
- 2.9.3. Jn.3:6 “That which is **born** of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.”
- 2.9.3.1. **But also remember God can change a Jacob into an Israel, a Simon into a Peter!**
- 2.10. (9,11) **I will defer**(delay) **My anger** – Longsuffering.
- 2.10.1. Can we purpose the same?
- 2.10.2. **Q: How would it help if we did?**
- 2.11. **God is acting in concert with His name in bringing them back to the land!**
- 2.12. (10) **The furnace of affliction** – Is it hot in here?
- 2.12.1. God disciplined them & refined them in the fire of the affliction in Babylon.
- 2.12.2. **[Ask] Q: What fire might he refine you in today?** [job fires, family fires, relationship fires, friend’s fire, etc.]
- 2.12.3. **Resist** God’s flame, the fire will **burn** you!
- 2.12.4. **Submit** to God’s flame, & you’ll be **purified & refined!**

- 2.12.5. Daniel 3:17 “If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to **deliver us** from the **burning fiery furnace**, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king.”
- 2.12.6. Daniel 3:27 “and they saw these men on whose bodies **the fire had no power**; the hair of their head was **not singed** nor were their garments affected, and the **smell of fire was not on them.**”
- 2.12.6.1. It was a very real furnace through which Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego passed, & found God in the heart of it.

2.13. Nature teaches us this so well:

- 2.13.1. A **lumberman** occasionally jabbed his sharp hook into a log, **separating it** from the others that were floating down a mountain stream. He let's pass the trees that grew in a valley where they were always protected from the storms. Their grain is coarse.
The ones he **hooks** and **keeps apart** from the rest come from high up on the mountains. [From the time they were small, they were beaten by strong winds. This toughens the trees and gives them a fine and beautiful grain. They're saved for choice work. They're too good to make into plain lumber]
- 2.13.1.1. God often allows some of His dearest saints to be **bent by trial** or **buffeted by the winds of adversity** so that they may be **strengthened** for His service and **prepared** to fulfill His highest purposes!
- 2.13.2. The **queen bee** lays each egg in a six-sided cell which is filled with enough pollen and honey to feed upon until it reaches a certain stage of maturity. The top is then **sealed with a capsule of wax**. When the occupant has exhausted its supply of nourishment, the time has come for the tiny creature to be released from its confinement. **But what wrestling and straining it endures to get through that wax seal.** The opening is so narrow that in the agony of exit, the bee **rubs off** the membrane that encases its wings. Thus, when it finally does emerge, it is able to fly!
- 2.13.3. **Oyster & Pearl** - (A sand irritant gets in, nacre kicks in, a pearl begins)
- 2.13.3.1. An oyster which has not been hurt **does not grow a pearl --**
For a pearl is a healed wound!
- 2.13.4. **Butterfly & Cocoon** –
- 2.13.5. Allow **God's Word** be a **soft rain shower** to you dispelling the fury of the flames.
- 2.13.5.1. **His presence** is both your **comfort & safety.**
- 2.13.6. The H.S. has given you **fire-proof armor** against which the heat is **powerless.** (fireman's turnouts “*Bunker Gear*”, still hot/can't burn{up to 1200 F})

- 2.14. **But this burden of suffering** is so heavy, like a millstone hung around my neck. **Yet** in reality it is simply the weight necessary to hold the diver down while he is *searching for pearls*.
(adapted from; Streams in the Desert; July 9th)
- 2.15. (11) **Q: Been sharing in any of His Glory lately?**
- 2.16. **Proofs!** (12-16)
- 2.17. (12) Two proofs of being the only true God.
2.17.1. **His creative power!** (13)
2.17.2. **His ability to foretell the future!** (14)
- 2.18. (16) OT Trinity!
- 2.19. **Peace!** (17-22)
- 2.20. (17,18) **Who leads you** – Hear the parental disappointment here.
2.20.1. “Oh, what could have been!”
- 2.21. Ok, so what conditions does God lay down that are necessary to experience the fullness of His **peace**? {18a obedience!}
2.21.1. Just like Deut.28 – **Obedience** brings blessings, & **disobedience** brings chastisement.
- 2.22. **Peace like a river.** (i.e. wide, deep, moving, flowing, curving)
2.22.1. **Q: What would your peace be likened unto?**
2.22.1.1. A small brook, a little stream, a trickle?
2.22.1.2. We sing, “I’ve got peace like a river(fountain, ocean) in my soul!” [Old African American Spiritual]
2.22.2. **Q: Which is more accurate for your peace today?**
2.22.2.1. “I’ve got peace like a **puddle**?”
2.22.2.2. Or, “I’ve got peace like a **drip drop**?”
2.22.2.3. Or, “I’ve got peace like a **drizzle**?”
2.22.2.4. Or, “like a **River**?”
2.22.3. Enjoy His peace!
- 2.23. (21) **Provider!**
2.23.1. As the Lord **provided** for Israel in the wilderness as they fled Egypt, **so** He will provide for them fleeing from Babylon. And for you & I as we return unto Him from our wanderings or even backsliding.

- 2.24. (22) **No peace for the wicked** –
- 2.24.1. **Q:** What does this say then about bringing peace to our contemporary world?
- 2.24.1.1. Only by Jesus! **“Peace I leave with you My peace I give you!”**
- 2.24.1.1.1. **Q:** Do you **rent** or **own** peace?
- 2.24.1.2. Pray for the Peace of Israel...how? (Messiah)
- 2.24.2. **Dr. Robert Oppenheimer**, who supervised the **creation of the first atomic bomb**, appeared before a Congressional Committee. They inquired of him if there were any defense against the weapon. **“Certainly,”** the great physicist replied. **“And that is—”** Dr. Oppenheimer looked over the hushed, expectant audience and said softly: **“Peace.”**
- 2.24.2.1. There is only one weapon against an Atomic or Nuclear bomb, & there is only one weapon against our anxieties, fears, unrest...**Peace! ... His Peace!**