

SEE THE KING!

with Isaiah

'Your eyes will behold the King in his beauty (Is. 33:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

4th Session **THEME: The right to tidy up**

1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question. 10 minutes to get started

Sometimes you have been faithful very long to a certain person, thing, or organisation. You invested much time and energy. But finally, it seems it has all been in vain. Who of you has experienced this? How did/do you deal with that?

Nobody will deny that we have the right to tidy and clean up. We may do things away. To create room for other things. We may also tidy up our agendas. Chose no longer to invest in certain things. And have time for other things. Today we will read a long passage again. The Israelites felt, maybe, that they had the right to be done with all the preaching of sin and judgement of Isaiah. They wouldn't listen any longer. But listen how Isaiah addresses them now.

2. Read Isaiah 5:1-7 30 minutes to answer these questions

Read 5:1-7 again A passage that serves to make us feel the righteousness of God's judgements.

- What strikes you in this passage?
- In vs. 3-4 the people may answer questions for themselves. With which aim would that be so?

Read now 5:8-23 A passage that serves to make us understand the righteousness of his judgements.

With 6 'woes' Isaiah makes clear why God is disappointed with his people. And why he hates the fruit of their deeds. The one, underlying, sin, is that they did not want to be servants of a glorious God, but that they wanted to be glorious gods themselves, without a God above them. They wanted to live self-centred lives.

- Look at each 'woe'. Try to say in your own words what was so wrong. Do we see similar things today?

Read now 5:24-30 A passage that serves to make us reckon with the righteousness of his judgements.

With two times 'therefore', Isaiah announces what is going to come. In the previous passage such a 'therefore' had already been there twice.

- Which things would come? Have these prophecies been fulfilled, or are they still to come?
- Look at verse 30. It sounds like 'de-creation', a reversal of Genesis 1. Do we see something similar today?

3. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Isaiah 5 wants to make us feel and understand that God is righteous in bringing judgement. We were made to enjoy God and by enjoying His providence and promises would enjoy to obey him. But God cannot enjoy us when we don't enjoy Him. The purpose of Isaiah is to make us repent from a self-centred life; to turn to Jesus Christ – the one in Whom God rejoices. Only by abiding in Him (John 15) we can bear fruit (Phil.1:11).

Can God currently enjoy me, because I enjoy and obey Him? Is there an area wherein the Lord calls me to clean up and make new choices? Take some moments of silence, share and end with prayer.

4. Digging deeper.

Compare 5:30 with 4:2-6. Observe the contrast. In 5:30 'de-creation'. In 4:2-6 there is 'fruit', 'create', 'light' and protection from judgements. Both show what God has done and will do in his judgements.