## Fear Not (part 2) Isaiah 43:1-5

### **Our Fears/Anxiety**

#### Israel's Fears (facing judgement & exile)

- Has God abandoned them?
- What is their identity?
- How will they survive in exile?

#### **Our Fears**

- How will I face the challenges?
- What is my future?

### Isaiah 43:1-5

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

### Truths that Challenge Our Fears

Isaiah 43:1-5 presents truths that challenge our fears.

- 1. Confidence in the One Who Speaks
- 2. "I Have Redeemed You"
- 3. "I Have Called You By Name" / "You are Mine"
- 4. "I Am With You"

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you...

Isaiah 43:5: Fear not, **for I am with you**; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

# The Importance of God's Presence for Israel

Deuteronomy 31:6–8<sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."<sup>7</sup> Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it.<sup>8</sup> It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

# The Importance of God's Presence for Israel

Joshua 1:5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

### CAUTION

Be **Cautious** to not mistake "symbols" of His presence with His actual presence in your life.

Jeremiah 7:3–4<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. <sup>4</sup> Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'

### CULTIVATE

#### **Cultivate** an Awareness of God's Presence

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Psalm 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

### COMFORT

# Take **Comfort** ("fear not") in knowing God is with you.

Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.