

Text: Isaiah 40: 3-11

Title: The Mouth of the Lord Hath Spoken

Date: 9-28-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

Isaiah 40: 3: The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

1. We know this speaks of John the Baptist:

Matthew 3:1: In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, **2:** And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **3:** For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

2. Mark declares this was the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God sends forth his messenger preaching Christ, just as he sent John the Baptist announcing the coming King.

Mark 1: 2: As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3. The message of the gospel is one of the sure triumph of Christ the Lord. Listen to the words of our text.

Isaiah 40: 4: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: **5:** And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

TITLE: THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN

When you hear a message preached is there a way for the believer to know that the mouth of the LORD hath spoken? How do I know if a man speaks in his own name or if it is the mouth of the LORD who hath spoken? How do I know where a man got his message?

I Corinthians 2: 10: But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **11:** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. **12:** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **13:** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **14:** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. **15:** But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. **16:** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

- God reveals the deep things to his people--that hidden mystery that only God knows.
- Believer's have received the Spirit of God--that we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God--he first makes us to know that we could not labor to earn these things, if he had not given us his Spirit we would not KNOW that the things of God are freely given of God--but the believer KNOWS by the Spirit of God given him.
- Which things the believer also SPEAKS--and he speaks them the way God would have them spoken, not the way man deems they ought to be spoken.
- The natural man may speak but that which the Holy Ghost teaches the believer--is foolishness, he regards the wisdom of God's Way of saving sinner's as foolish--he does so because he has not the spiritual discernment of Christ the Wisdom.
- BUT he that is spiritual discerns all things--he knows the mind of the Lord--because through the Holy Spirit the deep things of God, the very thoughts of Christ have been revealed in his spirit.
- HE IS GIVEN THIS UNDERSTANDING BY THE MOUTH OF THE LORD SPEAKING IN HIS HEART.

I. THE BELIEVER DISCERNs THAT THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN BY HOW THE MESSENGER SPEAKS.

Isaiah 40: 6: The voice said, Cry.

A. The word "Cry" means more than yelling in at a loud volume.

1. It is how a man speaks when Christ is his Wisdom.
2. It is how a man speaks when Christ is his Shield and Defender.

The officer's were sent to arrest the Lord Jesus:

John 7: 45: Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? 46: The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

B. Find out what they meant about Christ and you'll understand this manner in which his people speak.

1. Jesus declared that his wisdom came from God the Father. This crying of the believer is what happens when Christ is our Wisdom.

John 7: 14: Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. 15: And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? 16: Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

- Christ gives the Wisdom to preach his Doctrine just as he came preaching the doctrine of God.
- God's people speak not with the wisdom man uses--whether taught by man or not--this crying is speaking by the Wisdom of God. **18: He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.**

2. The cry has to do with boldness. We have this boldness when Christ is our Shield and Defender.

John 7: 25: Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? 26: But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? 27: Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is...30: Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

- Christ stood in the midst of those who would kill him and preached the message they hated, told them they were law-breakers, unable to come to God except in Christ, the people heard him, yet the rulers did not know who he was.
- Likewise, by Christ Protecting the believer, when we speak even in the midst of those who hate this gospel, Christ protects his people so that his people hear and the rest stand still as a stone.

This is the Wisdom and Assurance of Faith which the VOICE gives when he says: **Isaiah 12:6: Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.**

John the Baptist came declaring that Christ is King because the Voice of the LORD, THE MOUTH OF THE LORD, through the Holy Spirit made Christ his Wisdom, Shield and Defender, and he spoke boldly.

THE VOICE NOT ONLY GIVES UNCTION TO CRY...

II. THE MOUTH OF THE LORD INSTRUCTS HIS PEOPLE WHAT TO CRY.

Isaiah 40: 6: The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. 9: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

The Voice commands two-things be declared continually.

A. All flesh is grass.

B. Behold your God.

A. All flesh is grass.

1. Verse 7 declares all the good you have performed in your flesh is as the flower of the field--withering and fading.

2. And notice why? Verse 7:...because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it. One thing is sure--the people--you, me and every other man is grass.

Illustration: Would you build your house out of grass? If you are looking to your flesh--anything you did in your flesh--to find confidence to approach Holy God you are trusting in a house made of grass.

3. Is this an old, outdated, message? Is this what he commands you cry just to sinners but cry another message to believers? Has this command of the VOICE changed?

V8:...but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

- No, the sovereign, all-knowing, all-providing, thrice Holy God says to you sinner and to you believer...YOUR FLESH WILL NOT PROFIT YOU.

4. The Voice commands his people, in every generation, to declare to every age, every walk of life, every sinner and every believer, saying:

Isaiah 58: 1: Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

B. AND THE VOICE COMMANDS HIS JOHN THE BAPTISTS' TO DECLARE THIS TO ALL:

V9: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

1. Declare the Strength of Christ Jesus the Lord.

V10: Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.

- He is the Lord God--the Son of God--God himself--who came to this earth. His work required the strength only the Son of God could perform.
- His justice had to be satisfied for his people. You and I died spiritually in Adam and were law-breakers from the beginning so we were too spotted to lay down our lives and be accepted as a fit substitute. But the Son of God, born of a virgin, is that Holy Thing. That one who was perfect and able to have the sins of his people laid on him.
- His people have to have Christ revealed in them. We were dead in trespasses and in sins; unable to seek God and hated God so that we would not seek him.

His reward and work have to do with redeeming and creating the testimony in a man like Paul had: **Galatians 2: 19: For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21: I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**

2. The Voice said, Cry, Behold the on going work of your God.

V11: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

- The food the Shepherd feeds with is the Word. He prepares a man like he prepared John the Baptist. His servant speaks the Word--all flesh is grass and behold your God.
- The Word from the beginning.
- The Word which goes forth and does not return void
- The Word whose words are life and spirit.
- The Word whom his written word bears witness, and why this written word is said to be the Word by whom the believer is born.
- He gathers all the lambs which God the Father gave him from eternity by his regenerating grace in their hearts.
- His lambs are in his bosom--they can never be forsaken by him.
- He gently leads them who have been entrusted with his younger lambs.

Isaiah 55: 11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it. 12: For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. 13: Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.

Review

I. THE BELIEVER DISCERNS THAT THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN BY HOW THE MESSENGER SPEAKS--DOES HE SPEAK IN FULL ASSURANCE THAT CHRIST THE LORD SHALL PERFORM HIS WILL IN HIS PEOPLE.

II. THE MOUTH OF THE LORD INSTRUCTS HIS PEOPLE WHAT TO CRY--ALL FLESH IS GRASS AND BEHOLD YOUR GOD!

- When John the Baptist cried, Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand--he cried turn from your flesh and behold your God, Christ Jesus the Lord!
- When he cried to the Pharisees and Sadducees' to bring forth fruit meet for repentance--he cried, Turn from your grassy flesh and behold the Righteous Lord.

Unless we hear THE VOICE say, "Adam, where art thou?" We will go on hiding in the trees.

Unless we hear the VOICE say, "All flesh is grass; Behold your God." You will go on praising your grassy flesh for this delusion the world calls obedience, wisdom, grace.

Unless we are made to behold Christ's obedience as our Own we will never obey Christ.

Unless the VOICE sends forth his WORD like the snow and the rain into your heart causing you to experience true SOVEREIGN GRACE, you will leave out of here hugged up to that old viper saying, "Poor Clay, he just hasn't arrived at the platitude to which I have arrived."

Hosea 4:1: Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

What does the devil's lie sound like?

The Lord said to some: John 8: 44: **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.** (The devil does not cry all flesh is grass and behold your God. The devil lusts to stand in Christ's place and bark Christ's commands as if they were his own) [**The devil**] **was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** (He crucifies Christ by not preaching him or by telling those who think they are believers only what they ought to be doing, and thereby never tells anyone that the flesh is still grass and the believer still continually must behold the Lord Jesus Christ.) **When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own:** (When a man doesn't preach ruined by the fall, redemption by the blood, and regeneration by grace in every message he preaches then he speaks of man, he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own--his own will, his own choice, his own ability, yea of his own father the devil) **for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

THE BELIEVER DECLARES WHAT THE VOICE DECLARED WHEN HE WALKED THE IS EARTH!

Christ himself did not spend his ministry preaching on how to raise children, on how to be sexually moral; he did not preach a series on the history of the church, or on various old testament prophets. He declared the one of whom the law and the prophets spoke--saying, "This day is this word fulfilled in your ears." And the religious folks who claimed to believe God hated him because he declared, "All flesh is grace, behold your God."

He declared that though many reject him those whom he purposed to save from eternity, he shall save. When did he say that? During his first recorded message when he described the one widow in Sarepta who was saved, and Naaman, that one leper among many who was healed. He said, "All flesh is grass, behold your God."

When he preached the law he used it lawfully to declare that the very thoughts of a man's heart are evil. That it is not that which a man eats or doesn't eat, or how he washes or doesn't wash that defiles him...it is the heart which imagines his fleshly doings are his sanctification which defiles a man. He preached, "All flesh is grass, behold your God."

He declared, "If any man is thirsty let him come unto me" and he declared, "No man can come unto me except my father which is in heaven draw him." He preached, "All flesh is grass, behold your God."

He told his disciples, "to keep his commandments." And he told Peter, "You'll deny me three times before the cock crows tonight. But I've interceded for you so that you faith fails not." And this is the charge he gave to Peter, "After I've converted you from your foolish pride; revealed to you through this trial that I alone save, then obey me and go feed my sheep with the good news of grace so that they no longer boast in their own strength." He said to Peter, "Cry, all flesh is grass; behold your God. I will make it effectual in the heart of my people just like I have done you."

This is the work of God--this is Life--this is Righteousness--that you believe on the Son of God.

1 John 3: 10: In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

APPLICATION:

Let us cease from doing the unrighteousness and hateful thing of pointing men to grass.

- Thereby the VOICE will **exalt every valley and bring low every mountain and hill**
- He shall make **the crooked straight, and the rough places plain:**
- **And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed** instead of man glorying in this grassy flesh.

This is his commandment: **The voice said, Cry...All flesh is grass; Behold your God.** Have you heard the Voice? Will you heed his command? Those who have heard the Voice can declare nothing else.