

Isaiah 44:1-5  
"Unashamed"

Last week's word ended w/a warning of judgment. The principle in play was essentially this, *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,"*<sup>1</sup> Israel, refusing to turn back to the Lord, to repent of their sin (their idolatry) & trust in the Lord, only the curse & reproach remains.

However, that didn't mean that God would take back His promise of hope & restoration! They could still know the goodness of God, the restoration & reconciliation of God if they would only turn back to Him. It's the precious promise found in 1 Jn 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*<sup>2</sup> Or to finish out our 8<sup>th</sup> Vs of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ch of the book of Galatians, *"...but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."*<sup>3</sup> God gives us the choice.

He wants us to choose Him, He even pleads w/us to do so.... Deut 30:19, *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days;"*<sup>4</sup> It's a decision we each make individually, but also as a nation collectively before the Lord. Sin will bring its ramifications. But God is eager to provide reconciliation if we'll only repent & return to Him.

Vs 1-5

Last week we took some time & developed (to an extent) these principles that we find again here in Vs 1. That if you're in Christ, it's not because you chose Him. It's because He chose you. (Of course, here, God is speaking to Israel, so the interpretation in our text belongs to Israel. But it's easily demonstratable that these same principles have application for you & me as N.C. believers).

\* We don't choose Jesus, He chooses us. Does that interfere w/your freewill? Not at all. God's election (God's choosing) is predicated upon His foreknowledge... If you had the capacity of foreknowledge, would you choose to align yourself w/those who would choose to love you, be loyal to you & stay true to you? Or would you pursue those who would hate you, take their stand against you, & reject you? –

<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ga 6:7-8]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [1 Jn 1:9]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ga 6:8]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Dt 30:19-20]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now, if *you're* wise enough choose those who would choose you, & be loyal to you, & love you w/all their heart/soul/strength & mind. How much wiser is the Lord? How much more will *He* utilize His foreknowledge to choose those who will love Him? ... In choosing those who would love you (rather than those who would be against you), did that somehow interfere w/their ability to choose? Not at all.

So the Bible says, **"For whom He *foreknew*, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."**<sup>5</sup> \*Perhaps you're wondering, "How do I know if I've been chosen?" Believe on the Lord J.C. & you'll discover God chose you to! "I don't want to believe on the Lord J.C." Then maybe He didn't choose you... But don't blame God if *you* choose to reject His offer of salvation by grace through faith in the Person of His Son.

But we also spoke of *why* God has chosen us. It's there in Vs 1 as well. It's that we might *serve* Him, be witnesses to Him. Testifying that He alone is God, He alone can deliver, He alone can save, that Jesus is the way the truth & the life & no one comes to the Father except through Him... So, I'm not going to belabor those things here. What I want to draw your attention to in *this particular* moment is found in Vs 2. "Thus says the Lord who *made* you & *formed* you from the womb..."

2 Thoughts to consider here. #1 We note again the emphasis upon *creation*, not evolution. & #2 When does God consider a pregnancy to be a person, or a life?

But I want to call your attention back to the fact that \* **contrary to what's taught in the vast amount (if not all) public schools today, you did not evolve. You are not the result of matter upon matter, random chance & natural selection over the course of billions of years. Again I say, if you evolved you serve no purpose.** There *is* no purpose *in* life or *to* life. There's no explanation for a moral conscience, it's all moral relativism & there's nothing wrong w/might makes right (if evolution is true). If evolution is true, then what makes Hitler, or Lenin or Mao bad people? How do you explain right/wrong, good or evil? **If you believe in evolution, you have to chalk those things up to natural selection. It's just the strong weeding out the weak so that we might evolve to a higher caliber, or capacity or competency. Why is adultery wrong? Why is pedophilia wrong? What makes stealing wrong? If you have it, & I can take it, why do we call that wrong? Evolution doesn't furnish those answers.**

<sup>5</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ro 8:29-30). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The Word of God (however) does. You have a moral conscience, an intrinsic, intuitive understanding of right & wrong because God has *created* you & *designed* you in that capacity (w/that functionality)! The Lord has *made* you & formed you in the womb! \*

\*How can anyone look upon & consider (even moderately) the complexity, the marvel of the human body & conclude that there's no God, no Divine Designer? It's all random process, total luck of the draw...

How often do we ever stop to consider the delicate balance of life & what's involved w/even the "simple task" of living & breathing day to day? – Think about the relationship between your breath & your bloodstream. The cells in our body need oxygen just to function. They burn oxygen kind of like a vehicle burns gasoline. & Much like your vehicle gives off carbon monoxide as the result of burning the fuel, your body gives off carbon dioxide as the result of burning the oxygen in the cells.

So there needs to be a way for your body to discharge the carbon dioxide while at the same time getting a fresh supply of oxygen for the cells to continue to function. So God has *designed* this whole fascinating system of the lungs & their ability to inhale (& we just "happen" to have an atmospheric ratio of 78% nitrogen to 21% oxygen [little bit of carbon dioxide, hydrogen & such]. And your lungs take that oxygen, kind of spread it throughout their perimeters & the blood comes pumping in from the heart, discharging, depositing all the carbon dioxide it's picked up along the way throughout the body as the cells burn it off. It picks up the oxygen that you just inhaled, goes back into the heart, gets pumped throughout your body, resupplying the cells w/oxygen so that they can continue to restore, regenerate, supply energy or whatever they do, & you *exhale* the carbon dioxide that your bloodstream just swapped out for the oxygen!

Now, you start exercising & those cells burn more oxygen. So what happens? You start breathing faster, harder. Your heart pumps w/greater intensity because it's got to keep those cells in supply. But you don't have to think, "Lungs breathe faster, heart beat stronger!" Those things occur w/out you even having to think about it... It used to be when you had surgery, the doctors would have you on bed rest for extensive periods of time. Now, they try to get you up & moving as fast as they can because the more we can get blood to flow, the faster healing takes place. Interesting. What does the Bible say? "**For the life of the flesh is in the blood,**"<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Le 17:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

But to think that entire system just evolved over time through various mutations, random processes & chance... How ridiculous is that? \* & We haven't even spoken about the reproductive system, the nervous system, the digestive system, the skeletal structure, how the muscles knit it all together, all in one body. How do the eyes work?

What am I trying to say? You are *not* an irrelevant outworking of evolution! You were *fearfully & wonderfully* (listen to me) *made!* God has *created* you. The Psalmist said it this way, *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."*<sup>7</sup> So that's #1. You did not evolve, you were made, you have a loving Creator who formed your inward parts, who covered you in your mother's womb, who has "knit" you together w/bones & sinews (Job 10:11).

Which brings us to our 2<sup>nd</sup> consideration. \* When is a pregnancy a person, or a life? The bible teaches that life begins at conception. If you have a soul, you have life. & God declares authority *over*, claims ownership of *every* soul. (Remember, we took the time to develop last week, as our Creator, we are His by right). But this is what God has said, *"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die."*<sup>8</sup> Through this we can also conclude, no soul, no sin. The "soul" that sins. So for humanity to have life, there must be a soul... David (under the inspiration of the Spirit of God) said this, *"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."*<sup>9</sup> & I like to point out, he wasn't saying that his mother was in sin (in adultery or something) when he was conceived. He's saying he came forth, flawed from the factory because sin was present at the moment of conception. If *sin* was present, a *soul* was present, if a *soul* was present, there was life. \*

Perhaps you remember when Elizabeth was pregnant w/J.B. (Now, she had conceived at least 6 months prior to Mary... I say that to say this). When Mary visited Elizabeth, even if Elizabeth was right on the edge of giving birth, Jesus was no more than 12 weeks in the womb. But do you remember what happened? Luke tells us, *"And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"*

<sup>7</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 139:13-14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>8</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Eze 18:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>9</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 51:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

*For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.”<sup>10</sup>* Why such a reaction from Elizabeth & the baby in *her* womb? Was it due to a mass of tissue in Mary’s womb? No, it was because there was a *child* inside her, the Lord! & That was discernable, even by the baby inside Elizabeth! Listen, if *before* you were formed in the womb God knew you (Jer 1:5), how much more once you *begin* to form, once you *are* formed! \*Unborn children, are *children*...

For some reason, a lot of people feel better about abortion so long as it happens before 12 weeks. In 2020 (according to the article I read on the CDC’s website) 93.1% of all abortions took place before 13 weeks. Why is that a thing? Do you magically become a person at week 13? Ohio just passed a bill (pics) enshrining the right to abortion up to 24 weeks (6 months). (These are people celebrating the right to legal murder an unwanted child...) what has become of our nation? Surely, we have lost our way... God help us.

BTW the number of abortions reported in 2020 (which was the latest data I could access in a reasonable amount of time) was over 620,000 in the U.S. (which is actually down from previous years). The total # of abortions in the U.S. since Roe v. Wade? Nearly 64 million. (We thank God the Supreme Court overruled Roe v. Wade last year, yes? ☺) It’s the most basic right given to us by God, embedded in the founding document of our nation known as the Declaration of Independence. *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are* (what’s the 1<sup>st</sup> one on the list) *Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

Life isn’t some privilege that we can choose to bestow, predicated upon convenience under the banner of “reproductive health care”. It’s the immutable, indisputable, unalienable *right* that is given to us by God! Every child in the womb has the *right* to life! The *right* (given by God) to be born, to live! \*

I don’t even understand the political position, or the politician who says they’re working hard to “lower” the # of abortions in America. If it’s morally *acceptable*, why bother to lower the rate? If abortion is *not* morally acceptable, then why allow it at all? People talk about protecting women’s rights, but who is protecting the rights of that *innocent child*? Just because you don’t have to see their face doesn’t mean they’re less human...

& I’m well aware of the possibility that there are some here today who’ve had an abortion. Or maybe you’re a man who has pressured your wife, or your girlfriend to have an abortion. I’m gonna tell you, what you’ve done is called sin...

<sup>10</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 1:41-44). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

But I'm also going to tell you that God loves you. That Jesus Christ came into the world to *save* sinners & no different than the rest of us, forgiveness is found through repentance, at the foot of the cross...

Ok... #1 We did not evolve, we were created. #2 Life begins at conception.

& God is (here in Vs 2) assuring Israel of His love for them, the fact that He will help them. He's made them, formed them in the womb, He's chosen them... Btw, "Jeshurun" means "the upright one". It's only found a few times in your Bible & each time it's a reference to Israel. This speaks again of who you are in light (ultimately) of the cross. You may be Jacob (deceitful con man) but by the grace of God, through the blood of J.C. you become "the upright one". It's the marvel of God's mercy/grace. (But back to God's help).

### Vs 3-5

God says, "Fear not... for I will pour water on him who is thirsty... I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, & My blessing on your offspring." What a wonderful promise God gives to His people. God says to them, "I'm not only going to *give* to you My Spirit, I'm going to *pour* (the idea is that of lavishing upon, to cause an abundant overflow) My Spirit out *upon* you & My *blessing* on your descendants after you."

Family, before we begin moving toward our close, allow me to point out a couple things quickly. #1\* God wants to pour His Spirit, lavishly, copiously, abundantly upon you... Now, we've mentioned this before. There is a prerequisite, you see it in Vs 3. You have to be "thirsty". If you aren't thirsty to see God do more, to want to experience the Lord in a deeper way, then you probably won't. If you're more like, "Eh, life is fine. I'm aight." Then odds are, God has nothing more (at this time) for you.

But should you get thirsty, if you're longing for a deeper, more meaningful relationship *with* God, you're thirsting to be used in a greater way *by* God, then God will pour His Spirit out, take you deeper & do a wonderful work in your life. God is looking for "dry ground", for desperate people upon which to pour out His Spirit.

& Just for the record, we can't do anything *apart* from the work of His Spirit in our lives! We're like ships on the ocean, sails raised w/no wind. It's the Holy Spirit who "fills our sails" moving us forward in our *walk* & in the *works* of God. We need the overwhelming, outpouring of God's Spirit upon our lives!

How does one *get* thirsty if they're *not* thirsty? Talk to any athlete. We made mention of it earlier. You start expending energy, your heart starts pumping, your lungs start huffing & your body starts sweating (dehydrating). Guess what that does?

Creates thirst (the marvels of evolution 🤖👤). What am I saying? Get out there & get busy serving, ministering, sharing, loving, witnessing, giving people the gospel... Expend that spiritual energy & you'll start thirsting for more... \*

Now, as it pertains to this particular outpouring. We know from Acts Ch 2 that this was fulfilled in part on the Day of Pentecost. Peter quoting Joel Ch 2 speaks of the pouring out of God's Spirit in just this fashion. In my mind it was more of a foreshadow on the Day of Pentecost because the entire passage found in Joel Ch 2 wasn't fulfilled then. It will be during the Great Tribulation when God pours His Spirit out upon the entire nation of Israel & all Israel will be saved.

But the point I'm trying to make here is that the promise of God's Spirit doesn't just speak to some future time *prophetically*, it's for you & me right now *presently*. (This is where you write down Jn 7:37-39 & read it later).

\* Jesus promised the Holy Spirit (in an overwhelming, outpouring capacity) to all who would come to Him & drink. Again, you have to be thirsty (if anyone thirsts) & you've got to come to Christ (let Him come to *Me* & drink). Having people pray for you is fantastic. But you need to come to Jesus volitionally, willfully of your own choice...

It's the best thing you could do, not only for yourself, but for your children as well. God says, "I'll pour My Spirit out upon *you* & My blessing on your offspring." The best thing you can do for your children (or the children you'll one day have) is live your life set apart to J.C. Believe me, it'll serve as a blessing to them (God will see to it). I want my kids to see the priority Christ has in my life. My desperate need for God's Spirit, His grace & mercy, His faithfulness to me. Because they'll have difficult days as well. We've been called to shine as a light in an incredibly dark world. & If God will bless *them*... through my desperation for *Him*, then sign me up...

It pains my heart to see how irresponsible we (as adults) can be in not taking the spiritual development of our children to heart. To think, "Ah, they know about God (I think), that's good enough." God has entrusted these precious lives, these eternal souls to us, don't take it as a small thing! \*— Let's look at Vs 5 & we'll close.

## Vs 5

Translation? When God pours His Spirit out upon you, you will be unashamed to be His. To say, "I am the Lord's". – I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe...When God has poured His Spirit out upon you, you want others to come to the same knowledge of God! (It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing I want you to see.)

& Listen, \* people are all about identity these days. One will identify as this, another will identify as that, these are my pronouns... They're trying to find their identity & it's tragic! Because it's a sure sign of the fact that they're confused & struggling, looking for hope, something to give them a sense of meaning & value & purpose. Yet the Bible says, "...as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."<sup>11</sup> J.C. is your identity! It's no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; & the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me... **Close**

When the Holy Spirit is poured out on you, you *want* to take the name of the Lord. You want everyone to know that you belong to Him, and He belongs to you...

I suppose that's what I'd leave you w/today. Do you belong to J.C.? If you don't you can believe upon Him today. You'll discover God has chosen you from the foundations of the earth... If you do, do you desire more? Are you desperate, dry, thirsty for a greater walk, a deeper relationship w/Jesus? Then let's bow our hearts before Him & ask that He would pour our His Spirit upon us even now... \*

### **Prayer Points:**

God, teach us what it means to be *thirsty for You!* We desire *more* God. We want to *know* You, to *serve* You, to bring honor & glory to You. But we can do nothing w/out You so we're asking You to pour Your Spirit out. Lavishly, overwhelmingly, abundantly, constantly... Be glorified in our lives.

If today is the day of salvation for you, what a wonderful thing. Turn from your sin, believe in Jesus who paid the price for your sin, that you might have life in Him.

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<sup>11</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ga 3:27-28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.