

God is Doing a New Thing

The last couple of weeks it has been very exciting to see what God has been doing in our midst. The exciting part is that what has taken place is just the deposit, a foretaste of what He is going to do.

Isa 43:16-19

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

In order to partner with him, we need to be aware of 4 things that He is doing.

1) A New Path

Isa 43:16-17

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Have you ever gone on a journey not knowing where exactly you would end up?

During the height of COVID Charlene was going stir crazy and so we got into the car, and I drove us to Clearwater and started heading south on Gulf Boulevard. I know she likes the beach and I just wanted to get her out of the house. I didn't have an exact destination in mind because everything was shut down at the time.

As God blazes a new path for us, He leaves the remains of the former scattered in the wake of the new trail He is paving for us.

Rom 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

In the context of Isaiah 43, this is a prophetic word which looks beyond the overthrow of present enemies to the return home for a people of God. The description is obviously related to the exodus. But it is not so much the events themselves we are invited to reflect on as it is the power, the love, and the dependability that the Lord demonstrated in and through those events.

In considering a way forward, we must have a true destination in mind. It does no good to merely seek to eliminate present difficulties, if we fail to figure out what we hope to gain.

God has shown us that He has a plan and a vision for us. Even meeting here at Centerplace is part the new trail he is forging before us.

2) A New Thought

Isa 43:18

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

At the Vineyard National Conference before COVID it was already decided that Phil Strout would be stepping down and by the next conference Jay Pathak would be the new national leader. In looking forward to what God would do with Generation II of the Vineyard, one of the things they said was that as dynamic and exciting the past of the Vineyard had been, "What got us to today, won't get us to tomorrow".

Even as Kevin shared with us our history as a church, we can't dwell on what God did with Coastland or with JesusChurch. God is shaping us by giving us a new vision and He doesn't want us dwelling on the past.

Rom 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3) A New Thing

Isa 43:19

Behold, I am doing a new thing;

Popular expectation at the time of Jesus was that God's kingdom would come suddenly and all at once. They expected Him to come on a white horse and drive the Roman invaders away and establish Israel over all the nations. However, the Gospels teach us that the messianic rule of God commences inconspicuously, grows slowly but steadily in the midst of much adversity, and reaches its glorious culmination point at the second coming of Jesus.

Matt 11:12-13

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

God is doing a new thing in our midst. God has given us a vision, He has given us His favor and He is giving us His provision.

God is a creative God. What he does here is not what He did in the Jesus Revolution, it is not what He did in the early days of the Vineyard; it won't even be what He is doing in Asbury.

He is doing a new thing in each your lives and it is starting to impact us as a corporate body

New Eyes

We are starting to see new moves of God and I believe that God is going to move in our midst and bring about lasting change in people's lives.

do you not perceive it?

He is already doing it and we need to open our eyes and see the new thing He is doing. It is easy to look around with our natural eyes and get discouraged.

2 Kings 6:15-18

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

This morning I pray that God will open up our spiritual eyes and shows us what He is doing.

2 Cor 5:6-7

We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight

John 14:12-13

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.