



Living in Hopeful Expectation: Lessons from Isaiah

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God is Doing Something New

INTRODUCTION:

READING: Excerpts from Isaiah 38:10-19 [NIV]

- 10** I said, "In the prime of my life must I go through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years?"
- 11** I said, "I will not again see the Lord himself in the land of the living; no longer will I look on my fellow man, or be with those who now dwell in this world.
- 12** ...day and night you made an end of me.
- 13** I waited patiently till dawn, but like a lion he broke all my bones; day and night you made an end of me.
- 15** But what can I say? He has spoken to me, and he himself has done this.
I will walk humbly all my years because of this anguish of my soul.
- 16** ... You restored me to health and let me live.
- 17** Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish...
- 18** For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise;
those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness.
- 19** The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today;
parents tell their children about your faithfulness.

TABLE STUDY:

1. Read Hezekiah's prayer in Isaiah 38:2 together. Do you feel comfortable being as honest with God as Hezekiah was?
2. In the passage above, what do you think Hezekiah meant when he said two times, "you made an end of me"?
3. What are some of the different emotions expressed by Hezekiah in this passage?

TEACHING NOTES:

TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. If you could know exactly how much time you had left on this earth, would you want to know? Why or why not?
2. What are some things Hezekiah learned about God from his experience of illness and healing? What are some things he seemed to have learned about himself?
3. What does it mean to glorify God in our lives? How do we do that? Any practical examples come to mind?
4. What is most meaningful to you about this story? What is your main takeaway from today's lesson?

UNISON READING: Isaiah 43:1 [NLT]

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine."