

*The Challenge that lays before us*  
**God's Doing A New Thing**

**Isaiah 43:18-19 – God's Mercy & Israel's Unfaithfulness**

**TEXT:** 18 **Forget** the former things; **do not dwell** on the past. 19 See, **I am doing a new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

**PROPOSITION:** To motivate the hearer to seek a new vision and a new interest in the things of God.

**INTRODUCTION:** Isaiah's writings to the children of Israel came at a bleak period of their history.

They are in captivity, they have lost everything they thought they would keep forever and they were home sick ***for the land and the blessing God had promised them. They would cry to God, and again He would hear and deliver them. A new exodus would take place through a new desert...***

**The 1st step**

***to embracing the new thing that God wants to do in your life is to:***

<b><i>I. CHANGE YOUR FOCUS</i></b>
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**QUIT LOOKING BEHIND START LOOKING HEAD**

v.18 **Forget** the former things; **do not dwell** on the past.

If you are continually looking behind, ***you cannot see where you are going.***

If you are ever going to **move on to new things in Christ** you must learn that:

- A. You Cannot **Depend Upon Past Victories** To Sustain You!
- B. **Forget** the former things; **CHANGE YOUR FOCUS**

**Application:** The children of Israel had **many victories** in their past:

1. Leaving Egypt
2. Conquering the Land of Canaan
3. Fighting off prospective conquerors
4. Survived a split in their country

**But now they are in captivity.**

- A.) All their previous victories were **doing nothing** to set them free.
- B.) They needed a new work, a new miracle, a new victory.

The question **isn't** *what has God done* –**the question must be:**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A.) <u>What is God doing</u> in your life <b>right now?</b></li><li>B.) <u>What is it that you want</u> Him to do in your life <b>right now?</b></li></ol> |
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**Secondly,**

In order to **move on** to new things in Christ!

You must know that You Cannot Allow **Your Past Failures to Possess You**

- **Don't dwell on the past!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** **CHANGE YOUR FOCUS**

**The children of Israel had failed God miserably.**

- Every time **He blessed them** with good things,
  - They returned to Him evil things:
1. **God gave** them the Temple - **they gave** Him idol worship
  2. **God gave** them truth - **they lived** and proclaimed a lie
  3. **God gave** them His commands - **they lived** like they were suggestions.
  4. **God gave** them wealth - **they used** it to abuse the poor
  5. **God gave** them Himself - **they gave** Him nothing except rejection.

The children of Israel **did not deserve** to receive anything from God.

- Yet **He still loved them** and He earnestly wanted to **help them change**.

**: Notice God's Message**

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

**See, I am doing a new thing! CHANGE YOUR FOCUS**

- God **was not** condemning them for their past,
- They could do nothing to **change it**.

Instead God was holding out **the hand of hope**.

- He is in effect saying: **Forget** about your past –
- **I am giving you** an opportunity to **start over**. **CHANGE YOUR FOCUS**

**Isaiah 55:7** - Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.

Let him **turn to the LORD**, and **he will have mercy** on him, and to our God, for he will **freely pardon**.

- If you are going to get **anywhere in your spiritual life**
- **You must understand** that **you cannot live on yesterday's Faith**

**Fact:** The children of Israel **had experienced great spiritual blessings** throughout their history.

- From the **first Passover**,
- to the **crossing** of the Red Sea,
- to the **conquering** of the Land of Canaan,
- to the **building** of the temple,
- **the children of Israel had seen the hand of God at work** in and through their lives.

Yet **their faith** in what God had done **was doing nothing to** deliver them from **their present situation**.

Their old faith **was not sufficient enough** to deliver them from **their present problems**.

They needed **new faith**, a **new vision** for **what God could do!** **Change your focus**

They needed a **new portion of the faith** that had brought to pass **all the victories from before**. They **needed revival** – ask God to **give you a fresh touch of His love**.

**Psalm 85:6-8** Will You not **revive us again**, that your people may rejoice in you? **Show us your mercy**, Lord and grant us your salvation. I will hear what God the Lord will speak, **HE PROMISES PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE – Don't return to folly!!!**  
**CHANGE YOUR FOCUS - QUIT LOOKING BEHIND START LOOKING HEAD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**The 2nd step to embracing the new thing what God wants to do in your life is to**

**II. CLARIFY YOUR FOCUS -- DISCOVER WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU**

**18 Forget** the former things; **do not dwell** on the past.

19 See, I am doing a **new thing!** Now it springs up; **do you not perceive it?** I am **making a way** in the desert and **streams** in the wasteland.

1. What do you see when you view your life?
2. Do you see possibilities or problems?

**Notice what God said:** “I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

- The children of Israel **had a choice**.
- They could view their past and the problems of their present,
- or they could focus upon what God wanted to do in their lives.

**Way -vs. - Desert                      Streams -vs. – Wasteland**

**In order to discover what God wants for you,** You Must First See Yourself as God Sees You    **CHANGE YOUR FOCUS – CLARIFY** ☺

The children of Israel felt as though they were **getting just what they deserved** because of **the way they had lived.**

Some even believed that **God would never have anything more to do with them.**

**But they were wrong!!!!!!!!!!!! CHANGE YOUR FOCUS**

You may feel like **your past has made your life a wasteland**

**But in God, your life can become a stream of life.**

### **Romans 8:1-2**

Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus,** 2 because **through Christ Jesus** the law of the Spirit of life **set me free** from the **law of sin and death.** **CLARIFY YOUR FOCUS**

### **Colossians 1:21-22**

And you, who once were **alienated** and **enemies in your mind** **by wicked works,** yet now **He has reconciled** in the body of **His flesh through death,** **to present you holy, and blameless,** and **above reproach in His sight** **CHANGE & CLARIFY**

**In order to discover what God wants for you,**

- You Must **See Your Possibilities as God Sees Them** -
- I am **making a way in the desert!!!!**
- **God is able to transform** the desert areas of your life
- Into fields of **blessing and abundance.**

**God can take a dried up useless life and transform it into a life of purpose and grace:**

**2 Corinthians 3:17 - 18**

Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there is freedom.*  
And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**CLARIFY YOUR FOCUS -- DISCOVER WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU**

**Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past!!!!!!**

**The greatest step to embracing the new thing what God wants to do in your life is to**

**III. COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD'S PLAN**

**God had already set into motion** the events and people who would lead Israel out of captivity and back into the land of blessing.

**But it was still up to them** to decide if they wanted **what God was offering.**

- A. If they refused God's plan,
- B. If they refused to follow where God was leading,
- C. Then they would be doomed to remain in their captivity.

**I am doing a new thing!!!!!!!!!!!! CHANGE YOUR FOCUS**

Now it springs up; ***do you not perceive it?***

**I am making a way** in the desert **and streams** in the wasteland.

**God has already set into motion**

- a new direction and a new purpose for your life – **CLARIFY**
- **Will you follow Him? CHANGE YOUR FOCUS?????**

**CLOSE:**

**Psalms 95:7 - 8**

7 For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under his care.

8 Today, **if you will hear His voice:**

Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.

**PROPOSITION:**

**Seek a new vision and a new interest in the things of God.**

**1. CHANGE YOUR FOCUS - QUIT LOOKING BEHIND START LOOKING HEAD**

**What is God doing in your life **right now?****

**What is it that you want Him to do in your life **right now?****

You must know that You Cannot Allow –

**Your Past Failures to Possess You -**

**Don't dwell on the past!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP TEAM**

**2. CLARIFY YOUR FOCUS -- DISCOVER WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU**

**What do you see when you view your life?**

Do you see possibilities or problems?

**3. COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD'S PLAN**

God has already set into motion

- a new direction and a new purpose for your life –
- ***Will you follow Him??***