

Experiencing New Things

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Isaiah 43:18-19

Key Theme: Christ is formed in us through change.

God is always inviting us to release what is behind so we can embrace the new things He has prepared for us.

Change Is Part of Formation

Foundational Scripture | Galatians 4:19

"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you."

- Christ cannot be formed in us without change.
- Spiritual formation requires surrender, growth, and transformation.
- God loves us as we are, but He refuses to leave us as we are.

Illustration: The Packed Suitcase

- Before a new journey, old things must be unpacked.
- Many believers want new seasons while holding onto old baggage.
- To receive what God has next, we must make room for it.

Main Text | Isaiah 43:18-19

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Four Key Truths:

1. Forget the former things.
2. Behold the new thing.
3. God makes roads in wilderness seasons.
4. God brings streams in desert places.

I. Do Not Remember the Former Things

Let Go of What Holds You Back

God is not asking us to deny the past. He is asking us not to be imprisoned by it.

Things That Often Keep Us Stuck

- Past disappointments
- Old hurts
- Failures
- Unforgiveness
- Bitter roots

Bitterness distorts how we see God and how we see the future.

Illustration: The Little Girl and the Teddy Bear

The picture portrayed a little girl tightly holding a teddy bear while Jesus stood before her with something far greater behind His back.

Principle: What we hold feels familiar. What God holds is our future.

The Great Exchange

- Jesus exchanged His life for ours.
- Healing for brokenness.
- Redemption for sin.
- Hope for despair.

God continually invites us to exchange the familiar for His greater purpose.

II. Behold, I Am Doing a New Thing

"Behold" Means:

- Look up.
- Pay attention.
- Perceive what God is doing.
- Recognize divine activity.

Throughout Scripture, "behold" signals that something significant is about to happen.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

The Christian life is not merely improved behavior. It is continual transformation.

New Things Require New Capacity

Examples:

- New wine requires renewed wineskins.
- New assignments require new mindsets.
- New seasons require new trust.

God often answers our prayers through change.

What we call interruption, God calls preparation.

Every divine breakthrough begins with a divine interruption.

III. God Makes a Road in the Wilderness

Wilderness Seasons | The wilderness often represents:

- Confusion
- Waiting
- Transition
- Grief
- Spiritual dryness

Yet the wilderness is frequently where God does His deepest work.

Jesus in the Wilderness

Jesus entered the wilderness and emerged empowered by the Holy Spirit.
The wilderness was not His defeat. It was His preparation.

The Hallway Principle

- God opens doors no one can shut.
- But between closed doors and open doors there is often a hallway.
- The hallway can be uncomfortable.
- The way out is trust and obedience.

The wilderness may actually be:

- Preparation for destiny.
- An answer to prayer.
- A setup for God's next assignment.

IV. Streams in the Desert

God Brings Life to Dry Places

The desert represents:

- Exhaustion
- Delay
- Discouragement
- Waiting

But God promises refreshing and renewal.

The Woman at the Well

- Jesus met a woman whose life was marked by disappointment.
- One encounter changed everything.
- He offered "Living Water."
- The well she visited daily became the place where revival began.

Revival Requires Change

- Revival disrupts routines.
- Revival challenges comfort.
- Revival demands surrender.

But revival also brings life, healing, and transformation.

Living With Expectation

God Works in His Timing

Habakkuk 2:2-3 "Write the vision... though it tarries, wait for it."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season."

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is..."

Faith is not yesterday's confidence. Faith is trusting God right now.

Truth: You may be delayed. But you are not denied.

Final Challenge

Philippians 3:13-14

"Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead..."

Paul did not merely talk about moving forward. He pressed forward.

Questions for Reflection

- What former thing do I need to release?
- What new thing is God asking me to embrace?
- Am I willing to exchange comfort for calling?
- Am I ready for God's next season?

Closing Declaration

- The winds of change are blowing in your favor.
- The old chapter is closing.
- A fresh page is being written.
- God is replacing confusion with clarity, sorrow with joy, and fear with boldness.
- He is making roads in wilderness places and streams in desert seasons.

Memorable Quotes From the Message

- "Christ cannot be formed in you if you are not willing to change."
- "Every divine breakthrough begins with a divine interruption."
- "What we hold feels familiar; what God holds is our future."
- "The wilderness is where God often does His best work."
- "You may be delayed, but you are not denied."
- "Change is God putting your face toward the future He already planned for you."