

Hope City Church

Going Deeper Notes | 1.29.23
Isaiah 1:10-18 | Isaiah 42:1-4
A New Beginning, Pt 4

Icebreaker: Early in January, the church was invited to grab a Jenga piece (block of wood) and use a sharpie to write your answer to the following question on that little wooden block—

What is something you would like to commit to doing this year for your personal, spiritual growth?

Well, this first month is already over! Can you believe it?! How did you do with the commitment you chose to make for your personal, spiritual growth? How did God show up? What can you celebrate? What can you do differently? How can you build on this commitment in the month of February?

Going Deeper:

- (1) Isaiah 42:1-4 (p. 549, Life Transformation Bible, LTB) is also referenced as one of four places in Isaiah that is described as the "Servant Songs". Who is being described in this passage? The other three references also include: Isaiah 42:1-9; Isaiah 49:1-13; Isaiah 50:4-11; Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What themes emerge from these various passages?
- (2) Check out Mark 1:9-11 (p. 761, LTB). How does Mark resemble the passage you just read from Isaiah?
- (3) Reread Isaiah 42:3, "He will bring justice to all who have been wronged." What might justice look like here in the time when this was written? Note: Isaiah was written during a time when God's people were being held captive by other nations. What could justice look like here in our time? Hint: there may be a certain level of justice that exists now and another form of justice that happens in eternity.
- (4) With all of the various challenges that our immediate community is faced with, which justice issue seems to give you the greatest burden for our immediate neighborhood? Some of these may include things like domestic violence, addictions, abortion, homelessness, mental wellness, better support for foster kids, racial inequality, etc.

Action: God's people, the Nation of Israel, have a phrase they use to describe the reparation of the world or the tikkun olam? Another way to understand this idea of the tikkun olam could be doing our part, as ambassadors for Christ, to bridge the gap between heaven and earth. With this in mind, if Jesus was sent to bring justice to all who have been wronged (Isaiah 42:3), what area of your life is in need of help or correction right now? Where do you desperately need to experience the freedom God intended for us to have as Christ-followers? What is one thing you can do this week to bring about God's best in that part of your life?

Prayer: Lord, help me to see myself as your ambassador or your representative to the people around me that are hurting right now. If you have come to bring justice to those circumstances that are broken and in need of repair, how would you like to use me to be a source of comfort, peace, or guidance in desperate situations? Show me what it looks like to experience your freedom in those areas of my own life where I have become a slave to my own habits or circumstances. I need your wisdom and your strength to help release me from these things that are holding me back, Jesus. During this next week, show me what I can do to live out the words from Isaiah 42:6-7 in very practical ways around me. Give me your eyes to see those hurting people around me, Father. Amen.