

Introduction

- I want share a few thoughts from Isaiah 40 today
- Familiar passage
- When I read, the Spirit spoke to me - about my personal condition and the need in the church

Message

Our problem (v27)

Weary from the battle

- We are all in a battle
- Not just natural things - we are in a war
- Consider **Ephesians 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
- We are:
 - Praying, but not receiving the answers
 - Trying to live an righteous life with no immediate rewards
 - Pressing in, while those around us fall away
- **Ask:** How many are spiritually weary today?

Wondering if God cares

- Our text starts from a place like this
- See **Isaiah 40:27** *Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"?*
- Two complaints are raised

God doesn't see

- *my way is hidden from the Lord*
- Feel like God doesn't see your battle?
- That all you're going thru is somehow hidden from God?

God doesn't care

- *my right is disregarded by God*
- He doesn't care about how I'm living, the good I'm doing

The danger

- The danger is we quit
- See the promise of the day - **Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*
- We are urged to hold on!
- It urges us to consider God - the promise maker!

His provision (v28–31)

Consider the remainder in the rest of the chapter

Reflect on who He is (v28)

Isaiah 40:28 *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*

Reflect / consider

- Writer asks whether we've seen/heard/known
- Recently reminding us on who God is (Wednesday series)
- When we're weary remember who He is

Everlasting God

- I am - no past, no future - always in the present
- Everlasting God
- **Point:** doesn't faint or grow weary
- God is - and He doesn't get tired
- **Truth:** able to impart that strength

Creator

- He spoke the world into being
- He designed it all
- **Point:** He is smarter than we are. Your situation hasn't taken him off guard

Remember His promise (v29–30)

- **Isaiah 40:29–30** *He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;*
- God has promised power - even to the weak
- Contrast that with natural ability: it eventually runs out

Our part (31)

Isaiah 40:31 *but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

Wait on the Lord

Recognize the need

- Can't keep doing
- **Illustration** - sharpen the saw
 - Applicant to a logging company
 - "Fell this tree"
 - Impressively did so
 - Started on Monday, more trees than anyone on the crew
 - By Thursday - we're going to have to let you go
 - I'm the hardest worker: arrive early, stay late, work thru breaks
 - I'm exhausted!
 - You're behind - fewer trees than everyone else
 - Have you taken time to sharpen your axe?
 - Too busy for that!

retreat

- pull away
- Get alone with God
- His word
- Worship

Wait

- We need God to do it
- We must wait for him

Run on

- We are living in the last days
- There is still much to do
- We need to take time to sharpen the axe
- We need to keep felling trees

Application**We all need to take time to renew by waiting on the Lord**

- *Jesus come and rest*

salvation

- rest in His provision
- Trust in His love