

SERMON NOTES



The Power of a Fresh Start

I am a New Person!

January 7, 2024

What is the blessing of a fresh start?

Do you “play big” or “play small”? How?

*Isaiah 49 Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my birth he has made mention of my name.*

*2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;*

he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

*3 He said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”*

*4 But I said, “I have labored to no purpose;
I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand,
and my reward is with my God.”*

5 And now the LORD says—

*he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—*

*6 he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

1. Jesus was born to do _____ things!

a. Before birth Jesus was set apart to be God’s _____

- *Luke 1:30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the*

throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

- *Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

b. In his life, Jesus would display God’s _____

- *Mark 1:9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*
- *John 2:11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*
- *John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

c. In his purpose, Jesus would be the world’s _____

- *Mark 1:12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, 13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.*
- *Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*
- *Hebrews 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.*

2. God created us to do _____ things!

a. From Baptism God set us apart to be his _____!

- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- *2 Corinthians 5:14 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

b. In life, we are called to display God's _____!

- *Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- *Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

c. In our purpose, we are to proclaim the world's _____!

- *Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*
- *1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

Questions to journal about:

1. *Where in life am I "playing small"? What self-imposed limitations am I running into? How would God respond to those limitations?*
2. *Where is God calling me to "play big"? What promises from God can I rely on to give me strength and courage?*
3. *What happens when you see your eternal purpose to bring the reality of salvation to the people around you? What is one way you can embrace this calling God has given to you?*

NEXT WEEK: Fresh Start: I have a new Perspective!

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Also, don't miss the devotional emails this week to build on today's message!

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*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

MY PERSONAL NOTES

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message: