

### III. Impossible? No Problem for God!

A. There is no one to rescue us! (42:22)

B. God needs no one! (43:5-7)

#### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- Why is Israel an unlikely candidate for the task assigned... that of leading the nations into the light?
- Have you ever thought, “My life is such a mess because of all the sin I have committed, there is no way God could redeem this?” How does Israel's experience speak to this?
- Why would Judah in the days of captivity be tempted to think God was blind and deaf? How did God speak to this perception in the latter part of Isaiah 42?
- In what ways do we still experience captivity in this world? How is God's promise of salvation even through judgment to Israel applicable to God's people today?
- In what ways did Judah pass through the fire and rivers? Why do they not need to fear even though they would pass through? In what ways do we pass through fire and rivers? Why do we not need to fear?
- How does God's promise of being with us here in Isaiah 43:2 recollect the promises of Isaiah 7 – 8 regarding Immanuel? How does Christ fulfill these promises?
- Reflect on the breadth and height of God's love as expressed in 42:4. How does this point us to Christ? How might this specifically help you grow in relationship to God in Christ?

### Isaiah: The Gospel Foretold *Who Is Blind?*

Jerry Cisar — May 15, 2011

Text: Isaiah 42:18 – 43:7

#### Introduction: Why so many ditches?

A. The New Song (42:10-17)

B. What prevents Israel from fulfilling its Mission?

#### I. Can the Blind Lead the Blind? (42:18-25)

A. What Was God Thinking? (18-22)

i. The Blind Can't Lead the Blind!

ii. Israel is completely disqualified for the job! (20)

iii. Captives can't free captives.

ii. If you are Mine, then I am yours!

B. Is God deaf and blind? (23-25)

a) NASB 43:3 *“For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; **I have given** Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.”*

## II. Is Love Blind? (43:1-7)

A. You are Mine! (1)

i. Fear not!

a) Because “You are Mine.”

b) 43:4 *“I will give men in exchange for you; people in exchange for your life.”*

➤ Mark 10:45

b) Whose are we, that we need not fear?

➤ Isaiah 43–44

- God creates and forms His people.
- The nations create and form their gods.

c) 43:4 *“Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you...”*

B. I will save you from my anger! (43:2)

i. What are you doing in fire and water?

➤ 42:25

Martin Luther: “Who can even begin to appreciate what this royal marriage means? Who can comprehend the riches of this glorious grace? Christ, the rich and divine bridegroom, marries this poor, wicked whore, redeems her from all of her evil, and adorns her with all of his goodness. It now is impossible for her sins to destroy her, for they are laid on Christ and swallowed up by him. She has her righteousness in Christ, her husband, which she now can boast is her very own. She can set this righteousness over against all of her sins and, in the face of death and hell, say with confidence: “If I have sinned, nevertheless, the one in whom I trust, my Christ, has not sinned. Through our marriage, all that is his is mine and all that is mine is his.”