

**Friday, September 27**

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**Isaiah 51:1 - 53:12**

**51** **1** “Listen to me, all who hope for deliverance— all who seek the LORD ! Consider the rock from which you were cut, the quarry from which you were mined. **2** Yes, think about Abraham, your ancestor, and Sarah, who gave birth to your nation. Abraham was only one man when I called him. But when I blessed him, he became a great nation.” **3** The LORD will comfort Israel again and have pity on her ruins. Her desert will blossom like Eden, her barren wilderness like the garden of the LORD . Joy and gladness will be found there. Songs of thanksgiving will fill the air. **4** “Listen to me, my people. Hear me, Israel, for my law will be proclaimed, and my justice will become a light to the nations. **5** My mercy and justice are coming soon. My salvation is on the way. My strong arm will bring justice to the nations. All distant lands will look to me and wait in hope for my powerful arm. **6** Look up to the skies above, and gaze down on the earth below. For the skies will disappear like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a piece of clothing. The people of the earth will die like flies, but my salvation lasts forever. My righteous rule will never end! **7** “Listen to me, you who know right from wrong, you who cherish my law in your hearts. Do not be afraid of people’s scorn, nor fear their insults. **8** For the moth will devour them as it devours clothing. The worm will eat at them as it eats wool. But my righteousness will last forever. My salvation will continue from generation to generation.” **9** Wake up, wake up, O LORD ! Clothe yourself with strength! Flex your mighty right arm! Rouse yourself as in the days of old when you slew Egypt, the dragon of the Nile. **10** Are you not the same today, the one who dried up the sea, making a path of escape through the depths so that your people could cross over? **11** Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness. **12** “I, yes I, am the one who comforts you. So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear? **13** Yet you have forgotten the LORD, your Creator, the one who stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth. Will you remain in constant dread of human oppressors? Will you continue to fear the anger of your enemies? Where is their fury and anger now? It is gone! **14** Soon all you captives will be released! Imprisonment, starvation, and death will not be your fate! **15** For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea, causing its waves to roar. My name is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. **16** And I have put my words in your mouth and hidden you safely in my hand. I stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth. I am the one who says

to Israel, 'You are my people!'" **17** Wake up, wake up, O Jerusalem! You have drunk the cup of the LORD's fury. You have drunk the cup of terror, tipping out its last drops. **18** Not one of your children is left alive to take your hand and guide you. **19** These two calamities have fallen on you: desolation and destruction, famine and war. And who is left to sympathize with you? Who is left to comfort you? **20** For your children have fainted and lie in the streets, helpless as antelopes caught in a net. The LORD has poured out his fury; God has rebuked them. **21** But now listen to this, you afflicted ones who sit in a drunken stupor, though not from drinking wine. **22** This is what the Sovereign LORD, your God and Defender, says: "See, I have taken the terrible cup from your hands. You will drink no more of my fury. **23** Instead, I will hand that cup to your tormentors, those who said, 'We will trample you into the dust and walk on your backs.'"

**52 1** Wake up, wake up, O Zion! Clothe yourself with strength. Put on your beautiful clothes, O holy city of Jerusalem, for unclean and godless people will enter your gates no longer. **2** Rise from the dust, O Jerusalem. Sit in a place of honor. Remove the chains of slavery from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion. **3** For this is what the LORD says: "When I sold you into exile, I received no payment. Now I can redeem you without having to pay for you." **4** This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Long ago my people chose to live in Egypt. Now they are oppressed by Assyria. **5** What is this?" asks the LORD. "Why are my people enslaved again? Those who rule them shout in exultation. My name is blasphemed all day long. **6** But I will reveal my name to my people, and they will come to know its power. Then at last they will recognize that I am the one who speaks to them." **7** How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! **8** The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the LORD returning to Jerusalem. **9** Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song, for the LORD has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem. **10** The LORD has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God. **11** Get out! Get out and leave your captivity, where everything you touch is unclean. Get out of there and purify yourselves, you who carry home the sacred objects of the LORD. **12** You will not leave in a hurry, running for your lives. For the LORD will go ahead of you; yes, the God of Israel will protect you from behind. **13** See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted. **14** But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man. **15** And he will startle many nations. Kings will stand speechless in his presence. For they will see what they had not been told; they will understand what they had not heard about.

**53** **1** Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm? **2** My servant grew up in the LORD 's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. **3** He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. **4** Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! **5** But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. **6** All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. **7** He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. **8** Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. **9** He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. **10** But it was the LORD 's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD 's good plan will prosper in his hands. **11** When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. **12** I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

### **Ephesians 5:1 - 33**

**5** **1** Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. **2** Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. **3** Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. **4** Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. **5** You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. **6** Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. **7** Don't participate in the things these people do. **8** For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! **9** For this light within you produces only what is good and

right and true. **10** Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. **11** Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. **12** It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. **13** But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, **14** for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." **15** So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **16** Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. **17** Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. **18** Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, **19** singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. **20** And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **21** And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. **24** As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. **25** For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her **26** to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. **27** He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **28** In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. **29** No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. **30** And we are members of his body. **31** As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." **32** This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. **33** So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

#### **Psalms 69:19 - 36**

**69 19** You know of my shame, scorn, and disgrace. You see all that my enemies are doing. **20** Their insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair. If only one person would show some pity; if only one would turn and comfort me. **21** But instead, they give me poison for food; they offer me sour wine for my thirst. **22** Let the bountiful table set before them become a snare and their prosperity become a trap. **23** Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see, and make their bodies shake continually. **24** Pour out your fury on them; consume them with your burning anger. **25** Let their homes become desolate and their tents be deserted. **26** To the one you have punished, they add insult to injury; they add to the pain of those you have hurt. **27** Pile

their sins up high, and don't let them go free. **28** Erase their names from the Book of Life; don't let them be counted among the righteous. **29** I am suffering and in pain. Rescue me, O God, by your saving power. **30** Then I will praise God's name with singing, and I will honor him with thanksgiving. **31** For this will please the LORD more than sacrificing cattle, more than presenting a bull with its horns and hooves. **32** The humble will see their God at work and be glad. Let all who seek God's help be encouraged. **33** For the LORD hears the cries of the needy; he does not despise his imprisoned people. **34** Praise him, O heaven and earth, the seas and all that move in them. **35** For God will save Jerusalem and rebuild the towns of Judah. His people will live there and settle in their own land. **36** The descendants of those who obey him will inherit the land, and those who love him will live there in safety.

#### **Proverbs 24:7**

**24 7** Wisdom is too lofty for fools. Among leaders at the city gate, they have nothing to say.