

**Lent 2023 - Part 1**  
**Running toward Egypt.**  
**Isaiah 30:1-31:1**  
**February 26, 2023**

**I. The WORLD Isaiah is SPEAKING into. (Is. 36-37)**

- A. Israel is AFRAID of ASSYRIA. (Is. 28-31)**
- B. They are LOOKING for a DEFENDER. (30:1-7)**
- C. And UNWILLING to LISTEN. (30:8-11)**
- D. The FUTURE does not look GOOD. (30:12-14)**

Sometimes the prophets writings leave us scratching our heads wondering what is going on. It helps if we can understanding the context around their messages. Isaiah is speaking to the southern Kingdom of Judah during a time a great fear. The Assyrians have wiped out the northern Kingdom of Israel and are heading south.

1. Kid's Question: When is a time that you have been afraid? What did you do?
2. In what ways can you identify with the people of Israel during this time of fear?

**II. God's COUNTER-CULTURAL wisdom. (30:15-26)**

- A. Activities: REPENTANCE and REST. (v.15)**
- B. Attitudes: QUIETNESS and TRUST. (v.15)**
- C. The IDOL of SELF-PRESERVATION. (v.16-17)**
- D. The DESIRES of God for His PEOPLE. (v.18-26)**
- E. The POWER of God to PROTECT what is His. (v.27-33)**

The nature reaction when we are afraid is to look for help. Judah was doing just that, and Egypt seemed like a powerful ally. But God calls His people to a counter-cultural wisdom. He will care for and protect them. They can relax and trust that what He will bring them is good, even if it doesn't appear to make sense at the moment.

3. How does verse 15 look different from your typical response to times of fear and crisis? How might those activities and attitudes look in the context of your life?
4. Where do you see your self grasping at the idol of self-preservation instead of trusting that God will care for you?
5. St. Ignatius said, "Sin is unwillingness to trust that what God wants for me is only my deepest happiness." What is your reaction to that statement?

**III. LETTING go of OBSTINANCE for Lent. (30:1,16; 31:1)**

- A. CULTIVATE a LISTENING heart. (v.9; Jas. 1:19; I Sam. 3:10; Jn 10:27)**

- B. RELEASE the desire to CONTROL. (v.1-2; Mt. 16:24-25; Rom. 12:1)**
- C. SURRENDER your life to God's WISDOM. (v.15; Job 42:1-6)**
- D. Posture for RECEIVING, not RESISTING. (v.15; Jer. 32:33)**

Lent is a period of reflection and repentance. The text today asks us to let go our obstinance - our resistance to surrender to the wisdom of God in the midst of our fear. Can we allow the text to explore our hearts and our current practices to see if we are missing the calling of God?

6. What is one specific thing you can do this week to begin to cultivate a listening heart? What challenges might make that difficult?
7. Rate yourself from 1-10 on your need to control. What is God saying to you about that aspect of your own personality?
8. What is currently facing you that God may be calling you to receive rather than to resist? How will you respond?

***“Sin is unwillingness to trust that what God wants for me is only my deepest happiness.” (Ignatius of Loyola)***