

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Jim Kallam

Weekend of May 17, 2020

### INTRODUCTION

- Pretend that life went back to “normal” tomorrow. What is the first thing you would HOPE to do?
- What is the most challenging thing for you to “go through” right now?
- Spend some time in prayer thanking the Lord for who he is and how his love and grace are available to us. Here are some verses for us to meditate upon as we pray.

O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.  
You know when I sit down or stand up.  
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.  
You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.  
You know everything I do.  
You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.  
You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!  
I can never escape from your Spirit!  
I can never get away from your presence!  
-Psalm 139:1-7

## INTO THE BIBLE

### Read Isaiah 43:1-7

- What are some things you observe about mankind from these verses?
- What do you think Isaiah meant by the different descriptions of deep waters, rivers of difficulty, and fire of oppression? How might each of these be different?
- Read also Isaiah 42:18-20, 25. Describe how all these verses reflect the truth that we live in a broken world and are broken people.

Jim Kallam stated that in Isaiah 43:1 we have "one of the great *but*s of scripture."

- Describe what you learn about God from these verses in Isaiah 43.
- Describe, in your own words, what this "but" communicates to God's people.
- In what ways do these verses provide hope for us today?

Jim Kallam said that Isaiah 43:3 states that Jesus is our Savior and it's not about what we deserve but "who's we are and who we belong to."

- Name some things that you know to be true about "who's you are and who you belong to" because Jesus is your savior.
- In what ways do these truths provide us with hope?

### Read James 1:2

- In light of the Isaiah verses we have read, what are some reasons why we can "count it all joy when we meet trials of various kinds"?
- What is *one thing* that you can count as joy during this sheltering at home?
- In what ways does our brokenness cloud our ability to count it all as joy when we encounter sufferings in our life?

## APPLICATION

- What is your reaction to the truth that "relationship is at the core of biblical faith"?
- What are some of the reasons why we may feel unmoved or deaf and blind (see Isaiah 42:18-20) when we encounter God and his Word?
- What might it look like to pursue God relationally in your own life? What are some ways this might look different than trying to "do" something different?
- What is one way you might be intentional about relating to God on a more personal basis this week?



- Take a minute to thank the Lord for his grace, salvation, and the hope he provides.

"Our hope is found when we encounter this gracious, good, redeeming God who sacrificed his Son so relationship with him would be possible. Our hope is found in the grace of our salvation." -Jim Kallam

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." -Hebrews 4:16