

I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. ([www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com)).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

### III. PRINCIPLES

The God of All Comfort speaks words of hope to those wandering in the desert: “Get ready! I’m coming.” Meditate on these truths to ready yourself to receive God’s comfort:

#### A. Getting Ready for Comfort

- Isaiah 40:1-5, 9b-11 NIV-- Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
- Isaiah is writing to people in a desert place of captivity, exiled in Babylon because they turned away from their covenant relationship with God and His Word.
- They were certainly “comfortless” – Hebrew word here is “orphaneo”
- Desert = place of life’s trials and suffering. They’re also places of transformation from slaves/orphans to mature children of God living in the Promised Land.

Insights:

#### B. Knowing the Voice of Comfort

- Sometimes we have trouble hearing God’s voice, especially in hard times.
- We too have voices. We want to use them in ways that enable us to find comfort: Ps 77:1-2a TPT—I poured out my complaint to you, O God, I lifted up my voice, shouting out for your help. When I was in deep distress, in my day of trouble, I reached out for you with hands stretched out to heaven.
- There are many voices out there. It is critical to be discerning of their messages:
  1. Lies
    - The enemy, our flesh, and the world are not reliable voices. Much of what they say is a lie. LIE = anything that’s contrary to God’s Word.
    - Lies are nothing more than temptations from the enemy of our soul.
    - LIE: What you need is found in temporary or illegitimate sources of comfort.
    - LIE: Take a short cut! Don’t wait on God—He’s taking too long!
    - LIE: Don’t waste your time or energy because He’s not coming.
    - The voice that brings true comfort is God’s voice: Ps 17:4-5 TV-- *Your ways and Your voice now guide my journey. I will press on—moving steadfastly forward along Your path. I will not look back. I will not stumble.*
    - The voice of God says this: Is 40:1-- Comfort, O comfort My people.
  2. Condemnation
    - God answers the Chorus of Condemnation this way: Is 40:2 (personalized)—(Your sin has been paid for, (you’ve) received from the Lord’s hand double for all (your) sins.
    - That’s what is meant by the word “double” here—its meaning is metaphorical, we’ve been given “all that’s necessary to accomplish the job.” (Bible.org)
    - Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Because He died, no more payment is needed, “It is finished.” (Jn 19:30)
    - We can find comfort in the midst of condemnation by rehearsing the truth: Rom 8:1-- *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*

- Even when we fail Him, this is our testimony: Ps 32:5 AMP-- I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord [continually unfolding the past till all is told]—then You [instantly] forgave me the guilt *and* iniquity of my sin. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!
3. Complaints
- We must beware of how we use our own voices in our suffering or desert places.
  - Complaining cost a whole generation the Promised Land: Num 14:29 GNT-- Because you have complained against me, none of you over twenty years of age will enter that land.
  - We sometimes feel the need to be heard. We are free to express our pain as long as we make sure we are voicing it in healthy and life-giving ways.
  - The psalmist poured out his complaint to God and found comfort there.
  - Let's use our voices to bring light to ourselves and others: Phil 2:14-16-- Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life

Insights:

C. Moving Mountains

- Getting ready for what God is about to do is a call to prayer. Isaiah writes: Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low
- We move our mountains by prayer: Mk11: 23-- For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.
- Here's an obvious source of comfort: God answers prayer! He moves mountains!
- He promises to draw near to us and be our Companion and Prayer Partner. (Jm 4:8)
- Actually, we become HIS prayer partner since He is already praying for us! Heb 7:25-- Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Insights:

D. Lifting Others Up

- Isaiah spoke tenderly to the people even though their trouble was self-inflicted.
- God desires for every valley to be lifted up, especially those low places where we are weak, tired, or depressed.
- *Have you ever been so troubled that you just couldn't read, pray, or connect?* That's where the psalmist was: Ps 77:2b-4 TPT— Over and over I kept looking for you, God— but your comforting grace was nowhere to be found. As I thought of you I just moaned: "God, where are you?" I'm overwhelmed with despair as I wait for your help to arrive. I can't get a wink of sleep until you come and comfort me. Now I'm too burdened to even pray!
- In low times, God puts other people around us to pray for us, to stand in that gap between faith and our feelings: 1 Tim 2:8 AMP-- I desire therefore that in every place

men should pray, without anger *or* quarreling *or* resentment or doubt [in their minds], lifting up holy hands.

- Aaron and Hur literally lifted up the hands of Moses during a time of fierce battle: Ex 17:12--Moses' hands *became* heavy; so they took a stone and put *it* under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.
- *Does it comfort you to know that it's okay to lean on another person's faith when you are weak or hurting?* Open yourself up to receive that from others.
- God also calls us to give comfort away: Is 6:8-- "Whom shall I send and who will go for Us?' Then I replied, 'Here I am, send me.'"
- *Will you respond like Isaiah when God calls on you to comfort the people He loves?*

Insights:

#### E. Prepare the Way with Praise

- Ps 77:5-6a TPT—My mind wanders thinking of days gone by, the years long since passed. Then I remembered my worship songs I used to sing in the night seasons
- Another time when Israel was wandering in the desert, God told them to sing in response to His promise: Num 21:16-17-- The Lord said to Moses, "Gather the people together, and I will give them water." Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up, O well! All of you sing to it."
- What comfort--praise can bring breakthrough as well as silence the enemy! (Ps 8:2)
- Put on a soothing worship song, letting it wash over you when you're weary or weak.
- Sing today's playlist (listed on the website). It is a powerful tool for finding strength and comfort. It reminds us to get ready, God is coming!

Insights:

#### IV. PERSONALIZATION

##### A. Cultivate intimacy with God by connecting with Him daily:

- Practice the Middle of the Page technique of journaling with God:
  - Find a quiet spot
  - Fix your eyes of Jesus
  - Find the flow of God's voice (sounds like spontaneous, biblical thoughts)
  - Facilitate communication by journaling

##### B. Spend time in God's presence through prayer and song using the names of God.

##### C. Get to know God better by meditating on His names using the Nuggets" booklet.

- Ask the Lord "Who do You want to be for me?" in my day, issue, or season.

##### D. Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you've experienced.

Design Discipleship 2015. All rights reserved