

**Sermon Notes -- Isaiah 43:16-21**  
**Prayer is About What's New**

**How do we hear from God and really more important to us, how do we get God to hear us?**

Here is our usual prayer:

*“God my mom and dad are sick, please heal them. My wife and I are getting really stressed out, please give us peace. My job is starting to drive me nuts, please turn my boss into a goat... He might as well appear as he should... And you know, those people in Haiti, help them out. In Jesus name I pray, (which means you should probably go ahead and do it), Amen.*

At first, we are surprised it doesn't work. Then we get used to it.

**Big Idea:** Prayer is about what's new.

**God Reminds us of a Landmark -- Read Isaiah 43:16-17**

What is your personal landmark with God?

**People Are Afraid of a Fresh Experience with God**

When things start to change, sometimes we hold even tighter on to our past and what little we have in our present. **And God speaks unexpected words:**

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. – Isaiah 43:18*

God is creative and eager to rebuild His kingdom, and He does that through you, not by your sweat and sacrifice, but by the literal rebuilding of you in the process.

**I Am Doing Something New – Hate it or Love it**

*I am about do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it? – Isaiah 43:19*

The world is changing. You have two choices. Hate it or love it.

Much of the church looks at all these changes and sees God destroying, tearing down, punishing, and not really building anything new, just leaving chaos on the streets, and our response is to hope the end of the world is very, very soon.

This is absolutely wrong. God is giving birth to something new.

**God Makes Streams in the Desert**

*I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland – Isaiah 43:19b*

God is not some far off God who you have to beg for attention each day, who rarely notices you because you are so insignificant. God rushes in as soon as you wake up, maybe a little more like my dog, and licks your face and says, “Wake up! We're going to do some great things today!”

**Wild Things Will Get a Drink From You -- Read Isaiah 43:20**

Why is their water in the wasteland for these horrible beasts? Simple. Because you are there.

**The Final Picture – Read Isaiah 43:20-21**

This transformed wasteland comes alive when you let God come to you. When you let God do a new thing in your life. When you stop resisting God and growling at God to put things back the way they were.