

SERMON OUTLINE

Jesus Offered His Life

Isaiah 40:1-5

Because God has met us in exile, we can know his comfort in our fractured condition... (Isaiah 40:1-2)

How can our God extend such comfort to a fractured people?

(Isaiah 40:3-5)

Because he takes our condition personally... *(Isaiah 40:3)*

Because he makes our condition a path to repentance? *(Isaiah 40:4)*

Because he makes our condition a stage for his glorious grace... *(Isaiah 40:5)*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS *(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)*

- What is the most comforting message you have heard this year? Was it in a note of encouragement or a phone call or something else?
- Through Isaiah, God proclaims a message of comfort to the brokenhearted, exiled generation. This message is "good news" (Isaiah 40:9). What are the key elements of this announcement in 40:1-11?
- The Gospels quote Isaiah 40:3 in reference to John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. What does that imply about the identity of Jesus? How can you "prepare the way" in your life for Jesus? What needs leveling or shoring up?
- How has God used your fractured condition as a path to repentance?
- How have you discovered God taking your need for comfort personally, coming to you, listening to you, mending you? How has God continued to use the experience of exile in your life?
- How is your condition becoming a stage for his glorious grace?