

Sermon Outline – March 11, 2018

When Life Gets Hard God Brings New Possibilities

Isaiah 6:8-13

1. Think of a hard time of loss or suffering that you have experienced. Out of that hard time, was there a new and good possibility that came for you? What was the hard time and what is the new possibility?

2. What is one short sentence that describes what the whole Bible teaches? What are some examples of this?

3. Isaiah 6:8-13

- What is the backstory to this passage?

- What is the “frontstory” of this passage?

- What is the “new possibility” of this verse? *But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land. Isaiah 6:13b.*

4. When we experience loss, we grieve for what we had hoped would have been our future (Option A). At the same time, God helps us to see new possibilities that may not have happened without the loss (Option B). What is the amazing and paradoxical juxta-position that only God can bring?

- What is necessary for us?

5. What is the ultimate and greatest of all new possibilities?

6. Next step:

Review the five ways that God brings meaning when life gets hard:

- 1) God brings strength beyond what we thought possible.
- 2) God brings a deeper level of appreciation for all that God has given us.
- 3) God brings deeper relationships.
- 4) God brings more meaning in life.
- 5) God brings new possibilities.

As God brings meaning to our loss and suffering, **we take steps forward on the path to recovery, build holy resilience, take back joy, and face the future with confident hope.**