

Isaiah 40:6-11

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

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Discussion questions

? what struck you most in this talk/ passage? What's the main thing you're going to take away?

? is comfort-shopping / eating / drinking an issue at all for you? When do you find yourself drawn to it?

? in what way should the life-giving Word be a comfort to us? Is there anything you need to do to make it more a part of your everyday life?

? how does looking to God and what he is like bring us comfort?

A NEW COMFORT How to stop comfort-shopping! Isaiah 40:6-11

COMFORT 1

The Word of God (v6-8)

- the breath of the LORD

- the word of the LORD

COMFORT 2

Behold your God (v9-11)

- powerful King

- loving Shepherd

*'This I say is his comfort, that his heavenly Father so embraces all things under his power, so governs them at will by his nod, so regulates them by his wisdom, that nothing takes place save according to his appointment...Ignorance of Providence is the greatest of all miseries, and the knowledge of it the highest happiness'.
(Calvin)*