

Character Witnesses

Scripture: Isaiah 43:8-13

Date: March 22, 2021

Message:

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior.

Isaiah 43:10-11

The setting for today’s scripture is a courtroom and God’s people are called forth to provide a witness to what God has done. The witnesses are chosen by God so that they may know and believe and understand that there is only one God. Witnesses are chosen to do what witnesses do, to provide a testimony. But is understanding necessary to be an effective witness? Can feeble humans really understand the omnipotent, all-seeing, ever present God? Can a witness be effective without having understanding?

I know and believe that helicopters fly, but I certainly do not understand how. I know and believe that God sent his only Son, his perfect, sinless Son, to suffer and die for a sinner like me. As a parent, I do not understand how God could do that. To be an effective witness understanding is not always necessary, but oftentimes we Christians feel like we need to have all the answers and that may impair our witness. For example, we might refrain from offering a testimony to an acquaintance for fear they may ask one of the many things about God that we do not fully understand, such as why was a loved one not healed, why do bad things happen, etc. We can witness to the character of God even though we do not fully understand the details. We can be witnesses to His character based on what has been done for us and that is something that cannot be disputed. *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8 (NIV).

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, Merciful Judge, Gracious Provider, allow us to be your witnesses to a broken, sin-sick world during this sacred time of Lent. Give us opportunities to witness to your love and unfailing mercy and strengthen our resolve to be effective character witnesses and boldly proclaim what Christ has done for us, even when we do not fully understand. Amen.*

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