

April 2, 2022

Out with the Old- In with the New

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Isaiah 43:18-19a

Change can be hard, and it is easy to wish for things to be “like the good old days.” One sees examples of this with the Israelites when they left Egypt yearning for the Egyptian food and even the Judaizers in the New Testament who tried combining faith with the Mosaic law.

In this passage, Isaiah is remembering and celebrating Israel’s past (the Red Sea crossing), yet acknowledging that God will be working in new ways in the future.

This “new thing” will give refreshment and will be a positive change—all with the purpose of bringing glory to God. And Christians see the prophet’s message as referring to the new covenant—the one brought about by Jesus Himself.

The COVID pandemic has been difficult on everyone, and it has forced us to reimagine how we “do church,” whether on-line or hybrid. But one thing is true: its mission and purpose remains the same.

As C.S. Lewis wrote, the church’s whole mission is to make “little Christs”—to transform every member into the image of Jesus Himself. And if there was one thing Jesus modeled better for us than anything, it was CONNECTION: connection to the Father (His alone time with the Father), connection to one another (His disciples) and connection to the world (those he preached to and healed).

And while our connection to others may look a little different during these COVID times, may we be open to connecting in new ways. These new ways can be very positive, give hope and refreshment to those who need it, and reach more people than we possibly could imagine. The mission never changes but how we accomplish it can.

***Prayer:** Lord God, help me to be flexible and open to change. Transform me into someone like Your Son—one who lived His life in community and connection with You, with others, and with the world around Him. This can only happen with the power of your Spirit. I need You. Amen.*

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