

## Different > Isaiah 8:11-22

**8:11-15** God's people are called to fear differently than the rest of the world (v11-13), and that fear of the Lord that they are called to have will result in very different reactions than the world around them (v14-15).

**8:16-22** Similarly, God's people are called to act differently (v16-20), which will lead to a radically changed destiny from those who reject the Lord (v21-22).

**Context:** Isaiah continues preaching God's judgment upon His wayward people – they must see that the ways of the nations around them lead only to darkness, lack of hope, and death.

**Aim:** God calls His people to be different – to know and trust and follow the Lord is to have Him change every part of your life.

**Gospel:** Throughout the Scriptures, we read of the very different reactions that people have to the same, unchanging, God: those who trust in (or hope in) Christ will find His presence and teachings a comfort and a joy. Those who reject Christ find Him to be a judgment that they stumble over.

**Applications:** Who and what do you fear? Is it the Lord of the Universe? Or do you fear most the reactions of friends, or not fitting in, or the trials of this world? What drives your actions? Is it what the Lord has commanded? Or is it the opinions of others and the norms of society? God's people are called to be different because we have our hope in Someone who is radically different!

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Announcements**

Operation Christmas Child will be taking place this year; anyone who would like to participate, please purchase and fill a plastic shoebox-sized container with school supplies and toys. Remember to pack it specific to either a boy or a girl.

Barb Jones has been our church librarian for the past several years and has done a wonderful job overseeing the move into our new library room as well as with cataloging and shelving the books. She'll be retiring from the position once she and Larry move to be closer to their family. So, let me be the first to say: thanks Barb! Well done! But this also presents another opportunity for service: maybe the idea of being a greeter or usher doesn't appeal to you, or perhaps you like to work behind the scenes rather than in a visible role. If you are interested in taking on the church library, let the office know. Barb has offered to help get a new librarian up to speed.

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as we come in worship, make our hearts right and ready before you. Bring to our memory your faithful character: that you delight to forgive sinners, that you have provided salvation to all who trust Jesus, and that you never turn away those who cry out to you in faith. (Take a few moments and praise God for his character and goodness...)

And while we thank you for your character, we see deep darkness when we look to our own. Give us a true picture of ourselves so that we would not be deceived about our own sin. And then give us the courage – and the trust – to bring our sins into your light. (Take a few minutes to confess your sins to the Lord...)

Lord, we can't but help to be thankful – knowing that you have forgiven our sins. Knowing that you care for us specifically and individually. Knowing that you work all things together for our good and your glory. Remind us of how you have cared for us and answered our prayers. (Take a few moments to thank the Lord for his love for you and for how he has answered your prayers...)

And now, Father, we bring our requests to you – just as Jesus taught us, we come to you with our needs: that your will be done, that we be provided what we need on a daily basis, and that we be delivered from evil. We bring these needs to you because you are our loving Father and we trust you. (Take a few moments to bring your needs and requests to the Lord...)

In all these things, we trust you and we thank you. Now, move in your Spirit to draw us into worship, teach us from your Word, and send us out as missionaries into our homes and neighborhoods. Amen.