

“A Word of Comfort?”

Sermon ~ Isaiah 40:1–11

December 10, 2017
Rev. Kurt Ebert

1) An uncomfortable comfort .

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended ... 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. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass.

(Isaiah 40:1–2a, 6–7)

2) Beware of false comfort .

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get 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!”

(Isaiah 40:8–9)

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

(2 Timothy 4:3–4)

3) Gathered into the strong arms of comfort .

Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He 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.

(Isaiah 40:10–11)

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.

(John 10:17–18)