

Digging Deeper Study
A New Beginning
Week of September 7, 2025

<p>Isaiah 43:16-19 NIV ¹⁶ This is what the Lord says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty</p>	<p>"In essentials, unity; (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) in non-essentials, liberty; (Romans 14:1) in all things, charity." (John 13:34)</p> <p>Quote: "Your mess is not evidence of God's absence; it's the very workshop for His grace."</p> <p>Getting Started: What is a time in your life (a new job, a move, a new season) where you felt a powerful sense of a "new beginning"?</p> <p>Context: God is speaking to the Israelites during their exile in Babylon. They were displaced, discouraged, and defined by their past failures. Before He tells them the new thing He will do, He reminds them of the greatest rescue in their history: the Exodus from Egypt. Read Exodus 14:21-28 for the full story.</p> <p>Read the sermon text completely, then come back and discuss the questions.</p>
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waters,
¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and
horses,
the army and reinforcements
together,
and they lay there, never to rise
again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a
wick:

¹⁸ "Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

The sermon introduced the idea of "faith in retrospect." What is a "Red Sea" moment from your past—big or small—where you can now look back and see God's faithfulness at work?

How does remembering God's power in the past give you confidence for the challenges you are facing today? Lamentations 3:21-23

This verse seems to contradict the previous ones. How can God tell us to remember and then immediately tell us to forget?

Word Study: The Hebrew word for "forget" here doesn't mean to have amnesia. It means to stop giving your primary attention to something. It's a conscious choice of focus. The "former things" here likely refer not to God's miracles, but to the pain, sin, and trauma of the past that keep us stuck.

Read Philippians 3:13-14. How does Paul model this principle of "forgetting" what is behind to press on toward what is ahead?

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

What is one "former thing" (a hurt, a failure, a disappointment) that you need to consciously stop dwelling on in order to embrace the new thing God is doing?

Word Study: The phrase "springs up" (tsamach) is an agricultural term, like a seed sprouting. It implies that God's new work often starts small and grows organically. The word "perceive" (yada) means more than just seeing; it means to know, to recognize, to understand deeply.

God says the new thing is happening "now." It's not just a future promise; it's a present reality. What makes it so difficult for us to perceive what God is doing in the middle of our "wilderness" or "wasteland"?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does being "in Christ" make you a "new thing" right now, even if your circumstances haven't changed?

What is one small "sprout" of newness you can thank God for in your life this week?

So What?

The Great Exchange

The sermon challenged us to make The Great Exchange:
to trade our Focus on the FIX for a Focus on the FATHER.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How does "fixing our eyes on Jesus" help us run our race and not get stuck in the wilderness?

This week, when you find your mind stuck on trying to "fix" a problem, what is a practical step you can take to shift your focus to the Father? (e.g., pray the prayer from the sermon, speak a verse out loud, text a friend for prayer).

How does knowing about the Ultimate Exchange—that Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness on the cross—give you the power and freedom to make the daily "Great Exchange"?