

**“Confidence when Life is Challenging” – Part 3:
“Embracing Change When Everything is Changing”
Mount of Olives | January 18, 2026 | Isaiah 43:16-19
Pastor John Steward**

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, throughout the generations, You have proven Your faithfulness in guiding Your people. Over and over, despite our failures and doubts, You never let us go. Instead, You fulfill Your promises time and again. Help us to let go of the stress and anxiety that hinders our forward motion, and help us to simply trust in You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-19

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Message Notes

Isaiah 43:16-19

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

I Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

Philippians 1:6

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Study Questions

Read Isaiah 43:16-24

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's a “new thing” you've experienced in life that turned out better than you expected?
2. What helps you recognize when something old needs to be let go of so something new can begin?
3. If your life had a theme song right now, what might it be and why?

Based on Isaiah 43:16-24, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Isaiah 43:16-24**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. In verses 16–17, how does God describe Himself using Israel’s past experience of the Exodus?
2. Why do you think God reminds the people of their past deliverance before telling them to “forget the former things” (v. 18)?
3. What does God mean by “I am doing a new thing” in verse 19? How is it similar to or different from the Exodus?
4. What images stand out to you in verse 19 (way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert)? What do they communicate about God?
5. Why do you think wild animals included in God’s praise in verse 20? What does this say about the scope of God’s work?
6. According to verse 21, what is God’s purpose in redeeming His people?
7. Verses 22–24 mark a sharp shift in tone. What accusations does God make against Israel?
8. What does it mean that the people have “not called upon” God or have grown “weary” of Him (v. 22)?
9. How does God contrast what He has *not* demanded from Israel with what Israel has failed to give (vv. 23–24)?
10. What does this passage reveal about God’s desire for relationship rather than empty religious ritual?
11. How do verses 22–24 deepen our understanding of grace—especially when read alongside verses 16–21?
12. What tensions do you notice in this passage between God’s faithfulness and human unfaithfulness?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. Where in your life might God be inviting you to stop clinging to “former things” so you can notice the “new thing” He is doing?
2. In what ways can faith or religious practice become burdensome rather than life-giving? How can that be addressed?
3. Are there areas where you’ve grown weary of God or distant in prayer? What might help restore closeness?