

New Year's 2023 Sermon: Week of January 1, 2023

"Being in Christ, it is safe to forget the past; it is possible to be sure of the future; it is possible to be diligent in the present." - Alexander MacLaren, 18th century Scottish Baptist minister

Discussion Questions Set #1

- 1. Do you connect with the less than settled, less than comfortable, less than fully satisfied in your faith, holy disturbance discussed in sermon? Did you ascribe this to a coming transition or to something else?
- 2. Why might it be helpful for us to ascribe this properly?
- 3. What kinds of things do you think God is "up to" in our world in 2023?
- 4. What "new things" might God be doing in and around us?

Discussion Questions Set #2

In sermon, we discussed two passages – Joshua 3:1-5 and Acts 1:3-9 - as examples of where we might stand as a people in 2023, noting the following pattern:

- There is the presence of a divinely initiated time of waiting or a period of practiced patience.
- There is a call to anticipate "great things".
- There is direction to follow the advancing presence of God.
- 1. Do you agree that these passages describe our position in 2023? Why or why not?
- 2. Have you sensed other passages that might offer insight into our position in 2023?
- 3. Do you agree with the conclusion that "we are drawing to the close of a time of waiting with anticipation that God is about to do great things wondrous things in and through us"? Why or why not?
- 4. What great things do you anticipate in 2023?

Discussion Questions Set #3

Two focusses for 2023 were put before us which read:

- To more significantly become disciples who make disciples, who make disciples a people who are dynamically discipling others and being discipled ourselves in 2023.
- To become a distinctly rooted community in Christ that bears witness corporately to Jesus in such a way that those outside of this community are enveloped into it throughout 2023.
- 1. What do you like/dislike about these two focusses? What excites you about these focusses?
- 2. What practical steps might you take as a H2H group to accomplish these focusses?
- 3. If you were to create an outcome that would communicate success in moving towards one of these focuses, what would it be?
- 4. What would it practically look like if we as a H2H group:
 - a. Aimed to "consecrate ourselves"?
 - b. Aimed to with "one accord, devote ourselves to prayer"?
- 5. What might it require of you to:
 - a. Be discipled?
 - b. Be a discipler?
 - c. Bear witness to Jesus in community?

