**First Evangelical Church, Arcadia English Sermon Study Guide**

**2023 Annual Theme: Deepening Our Roots**

**Sermon: “Blessed Are All Who Wait”**

**Bible verses: Isaiah 30:15-22（Date: 11/12/2023）**

**【Please re-read the Scripture】**

**15**This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
**16**You said, ‘No, we will flee on horses.’ Therefore you will flee! You said, ‘We will ride off on swift horses.’ Therefore your pursuers will be swift!
**17**A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill.”

**18**Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.
For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

**19**People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. **20**Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. **21**Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” **22**Then you will desecrate your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, “Away with you!”

**Opening questions:**

1. Do you have any questions or any insights to share in the "Blessed Are All Who Wait”?
2. When people are waiting in a long queue, they often become impatient. Why?

**Scripture discussion questions:**

1. How many kings of the Southern Kingdom did Prophet Isaiah’s service go through? Please explain the historical context of this passage.
2. After the destruction of the Northern Kingdom, what challenges did the Southern Kingdom of Judah face? What method did the people of Judah choose to defend themselves against foreign enemies?
3. What are the two major factors for salvation that Jehovah told the people of Judah through the prophet Isaiah? What are the two major factors for strength?
4. [Meditation Question] Why can you get strength in "quietness and trust"?
5. What is Jehovah’s promise if the people of Judah are willing to repent and rest?
6. Have you ever experienced any difficulties or hardships while waiting? What does verse 20 “your teachers will be hidden no more” mean?
7. What happens when your teachers are always around you?
8. How were ancient idols made? What did the prophet Isaiah tell the people of Judah to do with these idols?

**Key Sermon Points:**

(1). When people see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as rescue, the result is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

(2). When people are willing to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the result is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

(3). The Lord’s command: Get rid of idols that are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord of grace.

**Applications:**

1. Have you had an experience similar to that of the people of Judah, who looked for help from Egypt (not God) when a foreign enemy (Assyria) invaded? Please share.
2. Why is waiting on God not necessarily the first choice for believers? How can we wait on God with more confidence?
3. Please share a learning from today.