

Fact Sheet for **“What Should We Be About?”**
Isaiah 29:1-14

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This morning we will consider this passage in four stages.

- 1st – We will briefly place this passage in the context of the book of Isaiah
- 2nd – We will look at a famous quote from this passage by Jesus, along with its own context
- 3rd – We will fit the principle from that quote within the vision for our church
- 4th – And we will consider some practical ideas of how to put that principle into operation

1st – We will briefly place this passage in the context of the book of Isaiah

There is judgment coming for Jerusalem

Read Isaiah 29:1

“Ariel” is a clear reference to Jerusalem (“the city where David encamped”). It either means “lion of God” or “altar hearth”.

Read Isaiah 29:2-4

But there is deliverance coming also

Read Isaiah 29:5

The Assyrian soldiers will be like dust, like chaff.

Read Isaiah 29:6-7

The Assyrian threat will vanish like a dream.

Read Isaiah 29:8

The hungry man or thirsty man who dreams is a reference to the Assyrians who dreamed of taking Jerusalem.

Jerusalem’s understanding of this prophecy

Read Isaiah 29:9

“astonish yourselves” – “be stunned”

Read Isaiah 29:10-12

Read Isaiah 29:13-14

Pay special attention to verse 13

2nd – We will look at a famous quote from this passage by Jesus, along with its own context

Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 in a very famous interaction with the Pharisees (Matthew 15:1-9/ Mark 7:1-13).

3rd – We will fit the principle from that quote within the vision for our church

There is a principle that can be drawn from Isaiah 29:13. It is a principle that actually comes from a reaction *against* these words. God wants us all to honor Him from our hearts, our core being.

I am reminded of the words of Jesus on another occasion (Matthew 22:34-40/Mark 12:28-34). These are quotes from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. This is what it means to honor God from your heart.

Now, let's fit this into the vision for our church, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Let's think about these verses a little. Do you know the core command of these verses? It is not to go, baptize, or teach. All of these are important parts, but the core command is to make disciples.

Now, think a little bit further. Is the process of making disciples something that I do... something that you do, or something that we do in community with each other? It involves those who are discipling and those who are being disciplined.

Now, what should we be passing on? What should be the goal of discipleship?

ESV Matthew 22:37-39 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

This is the positive side of Isaiah 29:13, and our call to discipleship fits that principle into the vision of our church.

4th – And we will consider some practical ideas of how to put that principle into operation

1. Training in discipleship should begin as a child.
2. Training in discipleship can be messy.
3. If we are going to be passing on our faith to the next generation we must engage them (Elders, Sunday School teachers, Deacons/Deaconesses, Worship team, Custodian, Life Group, Older/younger)

Will they make mistakes... yes.

Will they be short on wisdom... most assuredly.

Are the old duffers resources... YES!

Look for opportunities to not only engage, but also to train and employ the next generation of the church. This is what we should be about