

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker : Rev Darryl Chan

Text : Isaiah 48: 1 - 22
Title : If Only You Had Listened

I. Introduction

- The problem with listening.
- This chapter contains the most negative description of the people's stubborn failure to listen to God. It also sums up the entire section from chapter 40 onwards.

II. The Failure to Listen (vv. 1-11)

- The people's faith and conduct were not in truth and righteousness (vv. 1-2).
- The people failed to listen and were stubborn in attributing God's work in the past to the idols (vv. 3-6; cf. Exodus 32).
- The people failed to listen to God's promise of deliverance through King Cyrus (vv. 7-11).
- There are severe consequences when we stubbornly refuse to listen to God and persist in our sin and idolatry.

III. The Appeal to Listen (vv. 12-22)

- God appealed to the people to listen on the basis of who He is – the Creator and sovereign Lord of history (vv. 12-16) as well as how differently things would be if only they had listened (vv. 17-19).
- Listen and trust God's promise of deliverance – "Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians!" (vv. 20-21).
- The warning not to persist in wickedness (v. 22).

IV. Conclusion and Challenge

- The people's stubborn refusal to listen is matched by God's stubborn refusal to give up on them because of His faithfulness to the covenant.
- God has not forsaken us. He still calls out to us to forsake the sinful and idolatrous ways that will only lead to our destruction, to flee from Babylon and return back to Him.