

Title: Word of Comfort II
Pastor: Fred May
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Isaiah 40:1-2

¹ “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. ² “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’s hand Double for all her sins.”

a: To find grace

Hebrews 4:15-16 NIV

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1: See God wrapped in skin

- empathy – He ‘feels’ me
- sympathy – He ‘feels’ for me
- look into eyes of grace – sin or weakness?

2: Choose confidence over fear

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

- of rejection and rebuke
- bold brokenness – child-like humility

James 4:6

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “ God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

- naked transparency

II Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- reckless honesty

Romans 5:20

²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

- responsibility

Romans 6:14

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

3: Make room for humans

Romans 3:10-11, 23

¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- see through glasses of grace that includes ALL
- person priest of god priest?

Hebrews 5:2 NIV

² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.

(speak softly, deal gently)

- vent in heaven first, then love on earth

Ephesians 4:31-32

³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

4: Ditch the calculator and record book

II Corinthians 5:19 ASB

¹⁹ God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself not reckoning to them their trespasses.

- life's not fair because God is good

Matthew 20:8-16

⁸ So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' ⁹ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. ¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' ¹³ But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

- only the unworthy is worthy

I Corinthians 11:27-29

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

- not for the greedy but the famished

Matthew 5:6

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Romans 5:17

¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)