

1. Summarize the message of Isaiah 40 in one sentence.
2. Whose ministry (from the New Testament) is described in verses 3-9?
3. What was his primary ministry (v. 3-9)?
4. What characteristics of Christ do you find in verses 10 and 11?
5. How is God described in this passage (v. 12-28)?
6. What different comparisons does Isaiah make in this passage?
7. What point is Isaiah trying to make by all these comparisons?
8. The word translated “wait” (Hebrew *qavah*) means “to wait with expectation,” or “to eagerly wait,” “to hopefully wait” or “to look for.” It basically means to have faith in God. Can you soar like an eagle if you refuse to wait on the Lord (try to live life apart from God)?
9. God’s message of hope in the last part of Isaiah was not universal. What do the following verses say?  
  
*Isaiah 48:22* —  
*Isaiah 57:21* —
10. Read Matthew 11:29 and 30. What does Jesus promise to give those who come to Him?
11. If you are weary today what should you do about it?

**Monday (v. 1-13)** – What is love? Three different Greek words could be translated into the English word “love” (only two are found in the New Testament): *Philia*, brotherly love or friendship, is a sentimental love and it involves good or pleasant feelings about something or someone. *Erōs* (never used in the NT) refers to romantic or sensual love which seems to be how most people think of love today. *Agapē* goes far beyond mere charity (the KJV translators carried this over from the Latin, which has a different meaning in modern English) and is one of the rarest words in ancient Greek literature but one of the most common in the New Testament. Perhaps 1 Corinthians 13 gives the best definition of what agape love is: a self-giving, self-sacrificing love that always seeks the best for others. Agape is the very love of God and He demonstrated the depths of this kind of love when He gave His only Son to die for vile and wicked people (Jn. 3:16). “The problem, however, is that few people have any idea of what true love is. Most people, including many Christians, seem to think of it only in terms of nice feelings, warm affection, romance, and desire. When we say, ‘I love you,’ we often mean, ‘I love me and I want you.’ That, of course, is the worst sort of selfishness, the very opposite of agape love.”

**Tuesday (v. 1-3)** – The haves and the have-nots, first notice the haves: If I were the most eloquent and brilliant speaker, if I were the greatest and wisest prophet with the supreme amount of faith, if I were the most generous and giving person, even giving my very life and dying a horrible death...if I have not love, “I have become a sounding brass, I am nothing, it proclaims me nothing.” Wow! What a contrast the Apostle Paul is placing before us! The things we as Christians think would be of the greatest use to God or His kingdom are absolutely worthless without the right heart motivation—without love.

**Wednesday (v. 4-6)** – Paul begins a long list of the things that love is and is not. “Love suffers long” (literally is patient); “love is kind” (the Greek word *chresteuomai*, benevolent or charitable); “love does not envy...parade itself...is not puffed up...does not take a prideful attitude.” Envy, pride and self-seeking are the polar opposites of agape love; acting rudely or being easily provoked are not loving attitudes. “Thinks no evil”; this is an accounting term and means something like “love doesn’t keep a permanent record of wrongs.” This brings to mind Philippians 4:8 and Paul’s long list of “whatevers.” If you are truly loving you will not dwell on or mull over evil thoughts about others. “Does not rejoice in iniquity”; a truly loving person will never take pleasure in sin, either their own sin or the sin of others. Some people think it is funny when someone “gets what they deserve” or when they suffer from the sin in their lives; this is not a loving attitude.

**Thursday (v. 6,7)** – Love does not rejoice in sin “but rejoices in the truth.” The world today has all kinds of ideas about what love is and how to love; you will hear things like: “live and let live”; “they are not hurting anyone else, why should you judge them?”; “it’s just the way she was born”; “don’t call that behavior sin it might hurt his feelings,” etc. A truly loving person never condones sin, it is the opposite of love to stand idly by and watch someone destroy himself in a life of sin. A loving person rejoices in the truth! God’s Truth is what this world needs. Remember to faithfully communicate that truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

**Friday (v. 8-10)** – These verses are debated over regularly as people discuss the issue of sign gifts. “That which is perfect” has become a great object of contention (which is actually irrelevant to the timing in the ceasing of sign gifts due in large part to the different Greek verb usage in verse 8). But do you know what I find sad about all of this? I think we are missing the point of verses 8-10: Love never fails! You see the people in Corinth were seeking after pre-eminence; they wanted to be the prophet, they wanted to be the woman who could speak all the tongues, they wanted to be the most knowledgeable person in the church; but they were missing the point! (Kinda like us today?) Tomorrow, Paul tells us the point in verses 11-13...

**Saturday (v. 11-13)** – “Love never fails” (v. 8). What an awesome hope we have in Christ! We can be completely assured that God’s love is a love without end. This is precisely why Paul interjects this lengthy discourse on love into the middle of his rebuke concerning conduct in the church! God is love (1 Jn. 4:8) and His love is an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3). So often when we face division or contention in the church (or in other relationships) it is because we have forgotten what it means to love with the love of God; we have forgotten how *we* are loved *by* God. We can become concerned with personalities, preferences, personal desires or even important doctrinal differences and forget God’s command to love one another (Jn. 13:34). For now we live by faith, for now we live in hope; but even when we no longer need faith because we are in the presence of Almighty God, we will still give and receive agape love.