

## Study Guide

### **Monday May 31. Read Isaiah 43:1-13**

“You are my witnesses,” God declared to Israel in verse 10. God appointed his followers to be witnesses. This fact is clear from today’s text. Yet, interestingly, the call to witness is coupled with words of reassurance. God reassured Israel that He protected them in the past (verses 1-3), and He reassures them to “fear not” (verses 1 and 5) in the present as they go about witnessing to God. You and I have such a call, but we also need such reassurances. Jesus instructs us to be witnesses to Jesus in this world (see Acts 1:8), but we accumulate many fears that keep us from fulfilling our call to witness. Some fear that God will not provide finances for them to follow God onto the mission field, some are afraid that verbally sharing faith will reveal their lack of biblical knowledge, and some fear the response of others when their faith becomes open and apparent. What specific fears keep you from being a stronger witness? Are your fears so big that the reassurances of God cannot overcome them?

### **Tuesday, June 1. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. (By Matt Wambles)**

As Christians, we are called to be obedient to God and His calling on our lives. Though this may be intimidating, we need to remember that what we are to do is founded upon what He has already done. Jesus gave us direct access to God; therefore, why would we not want to show others this gift? By simply conducting ourselves in the right manner at all times, we can show God’s effect on our lives and impact those lives around us. Know that the more obsessed we are with the Gospel and its message, the more holy and satisfied we can become.

### **Wednesday, June 2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 (By Andrea Darby)**

The central nervous system is essentially the command center for your entire body. If it weren’t for those thousands of neurons firing and connecting around the clock, your body as a whole would be useless. Your hands wouldn’t be able to grip an object. Your brain wouldn’t be able to tell your feet to take a step. As Christians we are called to make disciples of all nations; in addition, we are called to also make disciple-makers. Just as our brain and limbs are nothing without the commands of the nervous system, what good are disciples if they in turn cannot also make disciples of their own? As you continue to examine and identify your place in missions this week, consider this: How can we effectively prepare ourselves and others to share and embody the gospel of Christ?

### **Thursday June 3. Read 2 Chronicles 36:18-21.**

Flooding that hit Nashville a few weeks ago damaged the building that houses the Grand Ole Opry. A news reporter asked an Opry representative what would happen to the Opry since its building was damaged. The representative answered, “The Opry is not about any one location. The Opry lives in the hearts and souls of its people.” This story reminds me of the faith of the Hebrew people in our scripture reading today. The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and all of its contents and clergy were dispersed. In spite of lacking a place to worship and clergy, ordinary people kept the knowledge and love of God alive. The knowledge of God was preserved in their hearts and souls. In our world today, it is often tempting for Christians to become attached to a church building, rely completely on its clergy, or demand a particular form of worship. Yet, aside from these external comforts, the people of God are called to do the hard work of preparing their hearts and souls for doing the Lord’s work. Today, ask God what lacks in your life that would allow God to entrust more responsibility to you in carrying the gospel message to the world.

### **Friday, June 4. Read John 12:32**

In the final days, Jesus will “draw” all people to himself. Nowhere in scripture does Jesus force people to come to him. Rather, like the gentle pull of a magnet, Jesus’ leadership

attracted others to follow in the way that he was going. Those who followed Jesus could be certain that the leadership of Jesus would direct them straight to God. If people around you began to follow you, day-in and day-out, would your leadership direct them straight to God? Or, would your leadership, by words and round-the-clock example, lead them elsewhere? Our calling, like Jesus', is to draw people to God. Pray today about the influence and "pull" that you have on others around you, and how that influence might draw others closer to God.