

The Past:

- What **happened**, what was **done**, what was **taught**
- Now that past has **power**.
 - **Habits & Patterns**
 - **Perspective**
 - **Memory**
 - **Sense of self**

(Potentially) Bad Advice:

Let it go

(Potentially) Better Advice:

Put the past in its proper place

Isaiah 54 → Need Chapter 53

Isaiah 53:1-5 (ESV)

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For **he grew up** before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced **for** our transgressions; he was crushed **for** our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that **brought us** peace, and with his wounds **we are** healed.

Isaiah 53:10-12 (ESV)

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see **his offspring**; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall **prosper** in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be **satisfied**; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make **many** to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a **portion** with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of **many**, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:

- **Suffering Servant (Jesus)**
- **From Jesus & His past → a new family is formed**
 - **Jesus is the “head”**
 - **What is His becomes theirs**
- **This relationship → covenant**

Isaiah 54:1a (ESV)

Sing, O **barren** one, who did not bear; break forth into **singing and cry aloud**, you who have **not** been in labor!

1) Acknowledge your past ... and its accessories.

→ Be specific.

Our bad past AND our good past can both create bad baggage

2) Sing & rejoice (with the past still in our face)

Emotions born in the past harden into present **positions** (*perspectives; paradigms*).

Singing (biblical truth) → raise the emotions *and* the mind ... → Open the heart ...

- Receive grace ...
 - Reframe & reposition the past ...

Isaiah 53:1b-4 (ESV)

For the children of the **desolate one** will be **more** than the children of her who is married,”
says the Lord.

3) Accept the authority of God over our story (including our past)

1-

My past and me

2-

Past

God?!?

3-

GOD

Past

Isaiah 54:2b (ESV)

“**Enlarge** the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; **do not hold back**; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

God’s plan for me is bigger & better than my past ... IF ...

Isaiah 54:3-4 (ESV)

For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your **offspring** will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. “**Fear not**, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your **widowhood** you will remember no more.

**God’s plan for me is bigger & better than my past ... IF ...
our story (Ch. 54) intersects with Jesus’ story (Ch. 53).**

4) Reposition our story within and under the story of Jesus.

Isaiah 54:5-6 (ESV)

For **your Maker is your husband**, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. ⁶For **the Lord has called you** like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, **says your God**.

Isaiah 54:7-8,10 (ESV)

For a brief moment I deserted you, but with **great compassion** I will gather you.
⁸In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with **everlasting love** I will have compassion on you,” **says the Lord**, your Redeemer ... 10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my **steadfast love** shall not depart from you, and my **covenant of peace** shall not be removed,” **says the Lord**, who has **compassion** on you.

A) Evidence of our life is NOT the **measure of our life.**

The enemy brings up the past because he doesn’t want you to enjoy the future God has for you!!

- **Do not echo the enemy!!**

If you fear your future with God, then eventually you will quit following Him!

B) Retell the story of Jesus!

People cultivate **bitterness, fear and/or pride by retelling their story ...**

C) Focus on knowing God’s **heart more looking for **His hand****

D) Live in **covenant with Jesus MORE than living for **our plans****

Isaiah 54:17b (ESV)

... This is the **heritage** of the servants of the Lord and their **vindication** from me, declares the Lord."

5) Face in **one direction: forward by faith in Jesus!**