

You can fly

I. Prelude & Prayer

A. Flying Trapeze – Title Slide

- I had always thought that to be a flying trapeze artist, you had grow up in a family of flying trapeze artists
- But there are actually schools where you can go and train to *fly*
- That’s right, you heard me right—the closest are:
 1. I.FLY Trapeze at the Phoenician resort in Scottsdale, AZ
 2. The Circus School of Arizona also in Scottsdale, AZ
 3. Vertical Fix in Tempe, AZ
- Did you get those down?
- I just wanted you to know that people *can fly—you can fly*
- Any takers? Anyone ready to sign up?
- Well I met up with Margaret De Silva in my resent travels who went and visited one of these three flying trapeze schools and she learned to fly
- You can read of her experience in a quote inside your church bulletin
- But let me just say this—Margaret is one very brave lady
- To climb over two stories up a ladder to a platform and on command leap into thin air hanging from this bar no bigger than your closet clothes hanger bar?
- That’s only the beginning—you swing back and forth like you’re on a school yard swing
- Only your hanging out over two stories above the ground—oh there’s a safety net below
- But who wants to fall? Oh me!
- Then Margaret says, as you swing back and forth you put your legs over the bar and hang from your knees bent around the bar and dangle... hands free upside down!
- Anyone here have your stomach just put the brakes on just now—yes, uh huh!
- Then here comes the clincher—a trapeze *catcher* is swinging from the other direction, and on cue you must let go, of not just the bar, but also your inhibitions and self-doubt in order to fly
- You’re trying to perform what they call the *catch*
- For a few frightful seconds you can fly—you can fly as you unlock your knees and let go of the bar
- The trapeze catcher suddenly grasps your arms and says “gotcha”
- And before you can say “twiddle-dee” you are landing on the far-side platform
- You just became a flying trapeze artist
- Any takers here this morning?
- We’ll be leaving at day break tomorrow morning for Scottsdale—*you can fly* (pause)

B. Learning to fly—learning to trust

- There something this lesson of learning to fly can teach us
- It can teach us to learn to trust
- Of all the things we learn to do in this life
- Learning to trust is one of the hardest lessons—AMEN!
- Yeah!

C. Call to Trust – By Isaiah - P

- Today, Isaiah the prophet in our Bible offers several calls to trust over the 60 years he was a prophet
- So you couldn't ask for a better teacher than the seasoned prophet Isaiah to help us learn to trust

D. Prayer – Our Father, take us into your Word, help us to learn to let go and trust You, rest in You...experience the Catch just as the trapeze artist does. We each need this in our walk of faith. So, Holy Spirit, accompany us in this time we have today in Your Word. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN!

II. Message

A. The first time flying – P (2)

- You never forget the first time you fly
- Racing up to 180 miles an hour down a runway in a huge metal cylinder with wings
- You gasp as the plane suddenly lifts off and realize you're no longer touching the ground
- Looking through the porthole window, you watch as the terminal, parking lots, trees, houses, lawns, parks, businesses and cars recede until they become as small as children's toys
- Then you no longer see what lies beneath you as the plane climbs higher and higher
- Soon, all you can see is an expanse of blue and white in what is known as the stratosphere
- You wonder if this is how a bird feels as it soars high above the earth, never looking back to the branch it just left behind

B. Isaiah's words in Isaiah 40

- Such an experience is what Isaiah draws on as he is writing the last part of Isaiah 40
- You see, the 40th chapter of Isaiah begins a section of the book that deals primarily with preparing Judah for their Captivity in Babylon
- Studying the context helps us see this—Isaiah 39:6 (Isaiah is speaking to King Hezekiah)
- TEXT: Isaiah 39:6 READ ***“The time is coming when everything in your palace—all the treasures stored up by your ancestors until now—will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,” says the Lord.***

C. Story of Florence - P

- I'm not sure if you heard the news this week—but a large tropical storm slammed into the Carolinas
- It was downgraded to a CAT 1 tropical storm, but that should not cause us to dismiss it's impact
- There are storms poised to hit our own life shores and downgrading them should not cause us to grow dismissive... AMEN!
- I read earlier this week—that with such storms poised to slam into our own world, that we should be on our knees
- I could not agree more

- But, in going to our knees we want to do so with eyes fixed on the promises of God's Word
- Before we apply our scripture lesson and understand we *can fly* we need to share in a Psalm
- Remember, captivity, uprooting from the land of promise was soon to take place
- A refresher in what it was like to come out of captivity is just what we need—a reminder of where we've been, so that we might understand where it is we are going and why

D. Psalm 81

- TEXT: Psalm 81 READ - P
- ***“Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things.”*** Ps. 81:10b

E. Eagles and their young - P

- This verse in Psalm 81 reminds us of a bird feeding and caring for its young
- I am reminded of the story of eagles and their way of having a family and raising their young
- **(P)** T.D. Jakes put it this way at last month's GLS —**“Eagles make love in the air, they nest on cliffs, then they kick the kids out of the house.”**
- God's getting ready to kick the kids out of the house
- Captivity in Babylon is coming—how should they cope
- A form of captivity is threatening in our day—how should we cope?

III. Application

A. Isaiah 40:27-31 – Scripture Lesson

- Here in these verses Isaiah, the prophet of God teaches us some great truths about God
- Intended to bring healing to wounded souls, of those who have faced and endured the sorrow of Captivity
- Have you faced circumstances of suffering, loss and grief? These three fundamental things are made available to you and me in this passage—

1ST – GOD IS AWARE

- To a people tempted to be impatient, forgetful or of little faith Isaiah said, (v.27) ***“How can you say the Lord does not see your troubles? How can you say God ignores your rights?”***
- Why do you think that way? Why make such a reckless charge?
- (v.28) ***“Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, He never grows weak and weary. No one can measure the depth of his understanding.”***
- Friend, God is aware! He is ahead on what befalls His people day after day
 - a. We may be surrounded by all manner of unsympathizing hostility
 - b. We may find ourselves tempted to indulge the fretful, distrustful spirit
 - c. We may be apt to think, “God has forgotten me...He has passed me by!”
- Like a young eaglet in free-fall from the nest, you might feel God is unaware, but just as the parent eagle is preparing to bear the eaglet on its wings, so GOD IS THERE AND AWARE!
- David so aptly says in Psalm 1:6 – “The Lord watches over the path of the godly.”

- We need to have our remembrance moved and our conscience pricked—God is aware.

2nd – GOD IS ABLE

- Isaiah and his prophetess wife have born children—and with each child they have been asked by God to name their children after names which are messages of truth to His people
- You might be saying, “Wow! God is pretty serious about getting their attention, our attention!” True
- See, Isaiah was urging the people, **“Don’t you know anything? Haven’t you been listening? God doesn’t come and go. God lasts. He’s Creator of all you can see or imagine. He doesn’t get tired out, doesn’t pause to catch his breath. He knows everything, inside and out.” MSG**
- You see one of our common frailties, is the humanistic practice of projecting upon God the weariness and weakness common to us
- We get tired and want to quit—like the eaglet, we forget that we were intended to fly, to soar
- So we figure, God gets tired and wants to quit—we figure wrong!
- Not only does he not lack strength—HE SUPPLIES IT
- (vv.29, 30) **“He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion.”**
- Dear ones, GOD IS AWARE, GOD IS ABLE

3rd – GOD IS AVAILABLE

- He is available, to renew the strength of “those who wait” on Him
- In distant Babylon, news of Cyrus’ decree came and the Jews were free to return home
- At this news those who had been waiting for Jehovah soared to heights of joy, as they anticipated a happy homecoming
- A rush of preparation followed
- But before arriving home, there would be the long trip from Babylon to Jerusalem
- Yet, right there, right here, with trust in their God, they would (fly) **mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint.” (v.31)**
- So shall it always be—when first we believe in Christ, arising from the waters of baptism
- There is this joyous enthusiasm and hope of heaven—we rush to prepare for the journey
- Soon we discover a long sojourn of trials and testings—temptations, successes, failures—dark days that seem wearisome and oh so monotonous!
- Yet, for those who wait on Him, God is available to renew their strength—that they too might mount up with wings like eagles
- That lone eaglet who needed an airlift from the parent eagle, now sat on the edge of the nest—seeing its parents use their wings, they followed and they did *fly*
- God is AVAILABLE, to renew the strength of those who wait on Him

IV. Close

A. What does it mean TO WAIT ON HIM? (P)

- To wait on the Lord is not a passive thing—
 - a. Where you do nothing

- b. Ask for everything
 - c. Then wait for it to be handed to you
 - That's not waiting for Jehovah
 - No, it can easily be the snare of Satan
 - Back to our opening illustration: The trapeze master has two commands they give when it's time for you to fly
 - They use a Spanish word, "**listo**" which means (ready)
 - The second command is the word "**hep**" meaning "go"
 - It's the space between these two commands that is the waiting period—and it is vital that this waiting period consist of the following:
 1. A sincere and steady dependence on the trapeze master
 2. A clear obedient trust of the trainee of the trapeze master
 - There you have it—
 - To fly means you have to set aside all misgivings about the Master and believe in His faithfulness
 - ***"...those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."***
 - God is aware, God is able, and God is available and Jesus made it so very clear when as God He said, "Come to Me...and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 - Trust Him, rest in Him, you *can* soar, you can fly!
- V. **Prayer** – Thank You Father, Son and Holy Spirit! We rest, we trust You and take flight in our faith in You! AMEN!