

“Moving Day”

Sermon by Dan Harrison, pastor, Church of the Covenant, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Isaiah 43:18-19

There come critical points in each of our lives where change must occur. However, for some of us change does not sit very well. For others of us, we look forward to change at every corner. My wife, Ruth, and I are polar opposites in this arena. I typically love change. I see adventure in. I like to be stretched just a little further than before, and am hopeful that it will be a good thing rather than a bad thing. But Ruth has a different philosophy about change: “Why mess up a good thing?” It’s often hard for me to argue with that. But then there come those special moments when change presents itself without consulting us first, and that’s probably a good thing, because many of us would prefer not to experiment too much with change itself, right? But if we never change, how can we grow? Our biology requires change, and for us to think that we don’t change is probably a false assumption.

When God tells the Israelites in the Hebrew Scriptures “Forget about the former things... I am doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:18),” in many ways God is describing to us the nature of things in general. Change is inevitable. In many ways every day is “moving day” whether we want it or not. If you are in a river, you have a choice, you can fight and hold on as hard as you can to anything you can grab on to, and exhaust every ounce of energy you have to simply stay locked in place—OR you can let go, and flow with the current of the river. Either way, the river of life will continue to flow. And why must the river flow? It is beckoned by gravity to find it’s outlet into a larger body of water. But more importantly is what it does along the way. The current carries life-giving water to many forests, to many trees, the animals of the land, including us, so that we can all live. The current of the river becomes the artery of life flowing throughout the earth, feeding us the nutrients we all need to sustain life. That is the power of movement. That is the power of change.

So, we can invest our energy (our mind, our heart, our emotions, our love) in holding on to something we will soon have to let go of OR we can invest our energy in channeling our mind, our heart, our emotions and our love into being a catalyst for positive change for all of those around us. So, I say let the river of change flow! May we all find change to be an adventure worth experiencing, even if it hurts a little along the way. God is a God who is doing a new thing all around us, all the time. Let us be a part of the “new thing” too.

Shalom