

Advent, Day 20
Read Isaiah 40

Friday, December 21

“...make straight in the desert a highway for your God...” Isaiah 40:30

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

I'll certainly be glad when Hall of Fame is open again. We've learned to get around the city even without the use of one of the main thoroughfares in town, but it's been a major inconvenience.

I felt the same way when they were doing all the construction on Highway 51 leading from Western Street out to Country Club Road. When they were working on that street and 19th and Sangre Road all at the same time, many people had to go miles out of their way to get children to school or to get to work. I remember trying to get to my polling place at the Meridian Vo-Tech and not being able to find a way there. I finally made it, but it was a hassle to do so. I'm sure that many people might have been deterred from voting because of all the detours.

The writer in Isaiah compares preparing our hearts and minds for receiving the promises of God with major construction of a highway. If we had to build a new road every time we wanted to get someplace, most of us would just hang it up and decide to stay home.

How many of us have had the experience of going on vacation only to run into major construction that went on and on for miles and miles. It almost makes you want to turn back around and go home and forget the trip all together. Construction of any kind always seems to take more time than we had expected, and be more of a bother than we had planned.

God knows that about us. God knows how impatient we can sometimes be, and how ready we might be to forget the whole thing if it takes too long to make it happen. The need for preparation means that some will never even begin the journey.

But God also knows how important it is for us to have to do the preparation, and how much more we get out of the journey if everything isn't done for us even before we begin. Having to do the work makes receiving the benefit that much more meaningful. Having to deal with the construction makes getting there that much sweeter.

I know that I certainly appreciate the road out to WalMart a lot more now than I did before they started tearing everything up. I'll get used to it eventually, but for the moment I still remember to be thankful for the work that has been done.

If we're going to get to Bethlehem we have to build the road first. Everyone has to build it for themselves. What it will take for you to get there is different than what I will need. How hard it is depends on the mountains that you need to blast out of the way and the swamps that you need to fill with solid soil. Everyone's construction site will be just a little different because every one of us is different and what we are seeking at the other end is just for us.

Get your hard hats on. Crank up the bulldozer.

What is at the other end of the journey is worth whatever it takes to get there.