Isaiah 40: The Arm of the Lord

1. (v.1-2) There are consequences for **sin**, but in God’s economy there is also **restoration**.
2. (v.3-8) The restoration process is taught in the example of **John the Baptist**.
   1. All the issues of **personal sin** must first be addressed.
   2. Accompanied by a renewed commitment to **God’s Word**.
3. (v.9-11) God’s power, strength, and authority (a.k.a., “the arm of the Lord”) are always balanced by His **compassion** and **gentleness**.
4. (v.12-17) The Old Testament system of sacrifices was never enough to bridge the gap to God; it has to be accomplished by **God Himself**.
5. (v.18-20) Man’s most common problem is substituting the **Creator’s Word** for something man himself **created**.
6. (v.21-26) Man often focuses on the **temporary** at the expense of the **eternal**. The fact is that each one of us individually is known and called by God.
7. (v.27-31) Although God’s arm sometimes acts in great, visible works of restoration, it most often expresses the hope and assurance of **personal faithfulness** while waiting for Him to act.

* While Israel waited on the arm of the Lord to restore them from captivity, the Lord required **personal faithfulness**.
* While we wait on the arm of the Lord to bring to conclusion all things on earth, the Lord requires **personal faithfulness**.
* While we wait on the arm of the Lord to transition us from this life to the next, the Lord requires **personal faithfulness**.