

Isaiah 43:1-7 NIV

But now, this is what the Lord says—
 he who created you, Jacob,
 he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
 you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in your stead.
Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
 and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
 I will bring your children from the east
 and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
 and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar
 and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.”

For Reflection and Prayer:

Was there a word, phrase or image which caught your attention you as you listened to or slowly read the text? Quietly reflect on this with Jesus.

Notice any felt sense that seems to emerge as you linger with this passage. It might come as a bodily feeling, emotion, metaphor, picture, gesture or sound. See if you can describe it and simply be with it with patient curiosity. Be open to whatever more might emerge.

Perhaps you might want to draw, color or journal your conversation.

As the time of prayer comes to a close, share some quiet moments with Jesus, simply resting safely in his presence.

Isaiah 43:1-7 The Message

But now, God's Message,
the God who made you in the first place, Jacob,
the One who got you started, Israel:
"Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you.
I've called your name. You're mine.
When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you.
When you're in rough waters, you will not go down.
When you're between a rock and a hard place,
it won't be a dead end—
Because I am God, your personal God,
The Holy of Israel, your Savior.
I paid a huge price for you:
all of Egypt, with rich Cush and Seba thrown in!
That's how much you mean to me!
That's how much I love you!
I'd sell off the whole world to get you back,
trade the creation just for you.
"So don't be afraid: I'm with you.
I'll round up all your scattered children,
pull them in from east and west.
I'll send orders north and south:
'Send them back.
Return my sons from distant lands,
my daughters from faraway places.
I want them back, every last one who bears my name,
every man, woman, and child
Whom I created for my glory,
yes, personally formed and made each one."