



## Sermon Main Idea:

God is inviting us to see and participate in the “new thing” He is doing in the world and in our lives. However, in order for us to truly participate in that new thing, we also have to see and face the reality of our sin/brokenness.

## Introduction:

1. What are some examples of lenses that people in our culture view life and circumstances through?
2. What is something new in your life that you had to do some hard work to bring about?

## SORP:

**Scripture** | read Isaiah 43:1-3, 14-28

**Observation** | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. Read Isaiah 42:18-25. What had Isaiah just finished prophesying to the Israelites, who are in exile?
2. Discuss the shift in Isaiah’s prophecy in 43:1-3. How do God’s words that came before this impact the significance of His words here to the Israelites?
3. What fears might have been holding the Israelites captive? What reason did God give them to not fear (v. 1)?
4. After a quick recap of a portion of Israel’s history, God tells them to not dwell on the past (vs. 16-18). In what ways might they have been dwelling on the past? How might that have impacted their present?
5. What new thing was God doing among them?
6. How was God instructing the Israelites to participate in the new thing He was doing (vs. 20-24)?

**Response** | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. What fears could be holding you captive? What fears might be at play in our church family?
2. How might your/our fears be coloring the lenses you/we perceive through? In other words, how do your/our fears impact the way we see things play out around you/us?
3. What things from the past are hindering (or even preventing) you from seeing the new thing that God is doing?
4. What new thing might God be doing in you? In Riverside? How can you/we be intentional about actively looking for it?
5. How willing are you to do the hard work necessary to take part in the new thing God is doing?
6. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

**Prayer** | ask God to help you live out your response