



### Lenten Reflection for Wednesday, March 30th

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You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

#### Isaiah 49:8 - 15

*Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.*

*Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*

When we leave the house recently, my daughter, who just turned two, likes to lead the way. She'll walk ahead of me and sing or talk, and she gets mad when I try to hold her hand. Every now and then, when we encounter a dog or another person on the sidewalk or a loud noise, she'll run back to me and cling to my legs for a moment until she feels ready to walk again.

Most parents will recognize this behavior. Kids go out on their own, then return for reassurance and connection. Then they go out again, farther and farther.

It's similar, in a way, to the daily phone calls I've had with my dad since my mom died more than a year ago. Most days we don't talk about much - I tell him a bit about my day, he tells me about his. These calls have helped both us get through a difficult time, and continue to strengthen our relationship.

Those touchpoints are a kind of remembering, a reconnecting that happens again and again throughout our lives with the people who love and support us.

We are asking, Have you forgotten me? No, is always the answer. I am still here.

These moments come to mind when I read this passage from Isaiah; our ongoing need to return and remember, especially in times like these - times of war and climate change and inequality and a pandemic, when the future is far from certain. Maybe we have gotten too far away - from each other, from God, and it's difficult to believe that the mountains will become roads and the highways will be raised up. It's now more than ever that we have to make a conscious effort to return to the comforting arms of God, to love and to hope.

Sing for joy. For the Lord has comforted his people. Have you forgotten me? We are asking. No, I am still here. I will not forget you.



*Jeremy Sierra lives in Park Slope with his wife, Denise, and their daughters, Jojo and Natalia. He is a writer currently working for Johns Hopkins University and a climate activist in his free time.*