

Sermon 2006 New Years Eve

Text: Is. 30:15

Theme: "Don't Do Something! Just Stand There!"

It's a frantic world isn't it? We feel as though we are wasting time unless we are doing something. In fact, many of us have a hard time doing nothing. Just sitting quietly is almost a lost art. I have often heard someone tell another who is just standing around,

"Don't just stand there! Do something!" And as usual, God's way is different from our way and he challenges us in this text from Isaiah, because he essentially says quite the opposite.

"Don't just do something. Just stand there." So much of our activity in life is busy work – work that will not make a bit of difference in the long run. Yet we occupy ourselves with it as though it were important. We make New Year's resolutions as though if we fix enough little things, then we can fix the brokenness of the world. Sorry, the world's a goner.

Although we call today New Year's Eve, the Church has always known this day as the Eve of the Name of Jesus for, like all Hebrew boys, it was 8 days after his birth that Jesus was taken to the temple to receive his name. His name means