

November 25th, 2018
"Oaks of Righteousness for His Glory"
Isaiah 61

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Nov 18 Acts 14-15	Nov 22 Acts 24-26
Nov 19 Acts 16-17	Nov 23 Acts 27-28
Nov 20 Acts 18-20	Nov 24 Romans 1-3
Nov 21 Acts 21-23	Nov 25 Romans 4-7

Lesson Introduction: Our passage this week is one which highlights the work of Christ the Messiah. We have seen time and time again throughout Isaiah how we are broken, sinful people, desperately in need of a Savior. Isaiah 61 makes plain that Christ was sent for such a people, and that through Him, the lowly are dramatically transformed. Before Christ, we were all flimsy beings, tossed about by the wind, but in Him, we have been made mighty oaks of righteousness!

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 61:3

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Christ was sent By the Father, with the anointing of the Spirit, to liberate those held captive by sin (V. 1)**
- **Christ transforms the weak into those who are strong through His imputed righteousness (V. 2, 11).**
- **Christ delights in His Father, and in the work of bringing salvation to the nations (V. 10-11)**

Isaiah 61

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;

6 but you shall be called the priests of the Lord;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast.

7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double
portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.

8 For I the Lord love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a
beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

Discussion Section 1: The Trinity at Work to Bring Salvation to the Lost (V. 1-2)

-What is the Trinity?

-How do we see the Father, Son, and Spirit at work in these verses?

-What does it mean that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Christ?

Note: In **Luke 4:16-21**, Jesus read the beginning portion of our passage today, and He said to those listening, **"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."** We have the advantage of knowing that these verses we are studying this week are fulfilled in Christ. What we will see in these first two verses, is that the mission of Christ to liberate the captives was done in conjunction with the Father and the Spirit.

As this passage begins, we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at work to **"bring good news to the poor and bind up the broken hearted."** This is a beautiful picture of the Godhead at work in the process of salvation for Israel, and ultimately, the nations. Christ came with the commissioning of His Father, and with the anointing of the Spirit to accomplish the work of salvation. All that Christ does is in conjunction with the will of the Father (**John 6:38**), and with the anointing of the Spirit. Salvation then, is the plan of God the Father, carried out through Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Section 2: The Weak Transformed (V.1-3, 11)

-What does verse 1 reveal about who Christ came for?

-How do the weak become **"oaks of righteousness"**?

-How does this transformation come about?

-What does verse 3 tell us is the purpose of this transformation from weak to strong?

Note: As we see in **verse 1**, the coming of Christ was for the purpose of bringing good news to the poor and broken hearted. All of us were once slaves to sin, held captive by our flesh, and destined for Hell (**Romans 6:20**, **(Ephesians 2:1-3)**). Christ was the only hope for sinners, and so He came to give salvation to the weak and lowly of the world (**Mark 2:17**).

The result of Christ's work on behalf of sinners is the transformation of those who were once weak and hopeless into mighty **"oaks of righteousness."** When Christ saves a sinner, transformation always follows. Those who were once dead in sin are made alive

(Ephesians 2:1-10) and are empowered by the Spirit of the living God (**Romans 8:11**). Sinful lifestyles are no longer acceptable to the one who is in Christ (**1 John 3:9**), but rather, war is made by the Spirit against such sin (**Romans 8:13**). This transformation is not optional but is always a result of genuine salvation. While it might not go at the same pace for each person, there will be evidence of the transformational work of Christ in each believer (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

Ultimately, we see that the purpose of this transformation from weak and helpless to mighty oak tree is meant for the purpose of glorifying God (**V. 3**). Our highest calling in life as believers is to bring glory to God in all that we do (**1 Corinthians 10:31**, **Colossians 3:23**). What could be more God-honoring than for the world to see the transformed life of a Christian? As we overcome sin, and walk in righteousness, the glory goes to God, for who else could give a dead man life, and make a captive mighty?

Discussion Section 3: The Delight of Christ (V. 10-11)

-What does verse 10 tell us about the way Christ feels regarding His Father, and the work that He has been assigned to?

Note: As this passage closes, we see in verse 10 the joy of Christ in accomplishing the work of salvation given to Him by His Father. The garments of salvation have been given to Christ, who in turn has clothed us in righteousness. Christ delights in the glory of the Father, and the salvation of those that the Father has given Him, thus He endured the cross (**John 17:1-5**, **Hebrews 12:2**).

As we close, consider what it is that you delight in most? If we have been covered by the righteousness of Christ, we have been made into children of God, and heirs of the Kingdom of God with Christ (**Romans 8:16-17**). This should mean that our delight is ultimately in making God known through the power of the Spirit. There is nothing more satisfying or meaningful than being conduits of God's glory, by proclaiming the salvation made possible through Christ!