

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"Realigning with God's Reign"

For individual study or group discussion

In this week's sermon, we see the anointed Servant of the LORD proclaiming "the year of the LORD's favor"-- a jubilee, as it were, to the poor and enslaved.

Do you remember from our study of Luke 4 a few weeks ago where we examined the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry as he read from Isaiah in the synagogue at Nazareth? After the reading, he closed the scroll and announced to his listeners, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). At that point, Jesus went out into the surrounding regions healing the sick, casting out demons, and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Thus, in Christ, we see the message of jubilee applied to all nations as the Gospel message advances throughout the world, to both Jew and Gentile alike.

The Year of Jubilee was not only codified in Israel to ensure ancestral land inheritance would last throughout the generations, but it is a practice for the church to embody God's grace in an observable way today. So when we practice forgiveness towards others, we are practicing jubilee. When we welcome outsiders into our community, we are practicing jubilee. When we love those who otherwise would be considered unlovable, we are practicing jubilee. Jubilee points us to the Gospel, the message of salvation for poor and needy sinners like us.

- Read Leviticus 25. What were some of the requirements during the year of Jubilee?
- What parallels do you see between the laws of jubilee, the promises made by God in Isaiah 61, and those fulfilled by Christ in Luke 4 and throughout his ministry?
- How do we align ourselves with Jesus' mission? (Isaiah 61: 4-6)
- What marks us as we engage in Jesus' mission? (Isaiah 61: 7-11)

Note, as you read through Isaiah 61, how God's people will be marked by "joy" (v. 7) as they participate in Jesus' mission. As Jesus brings salvation to the nations, the earth will rejoice and be glad as his people engage joyfully in the work of restoration and repair.

In his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson has this to say about joy: "The hard work of sowing seed in what looks like perfectly empty earth has, as every farmer knows, a time of harvest. All suffering, all pain, all emptiness, all disappointment is seed: sow it in God and he will, finally, bring a crop of joy from it."

- Read Psalm 1, Psalm 46, and also Jeremiah 17:7-8. Describe those who confidently depend upon God.
- Read Psalm 85 and Isaiah 62. Note the repeated promises of God's covenant faithfulness in these passages. What comfort and hope do they bring to you?

DATE: October 24

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Isaiah

PASSAGE: Isaiah 61:1-11

Family Dinner Table

"...that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified" (v. 3).

The Covenanter's Oak is a 900 year old oak tree located on the Dalzell Estate in North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Named after the Scottish Presbyterians who signed the National Covenant in their opposition to the Stuart kings who asserted the "divine right of kings" over the Church of Scotland, this oak tree provided protection to the Covenanters as they secretly held church services underneath it during the "Killing Time" of Scottish Presbyterian history.

As we examine Isaiah 61 in this week's sermon, "Realigning with God's Reign," we hear the words of the God's anointed Servant comparing his church to "oaks of righteousness" (v. 3). Through his people, "the planting of the LORD," "God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all nations" (v. 11). Like the Covenanter's Oak, God has made his church a shelter for the poor, weary, and enslaved of the world who respond to the good news of his grace and everlasting joy!

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

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PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Wenzong W., supported national partner