

ADVENT: Hope

Andy Deane · 12/15/2024 · Isaiah 61:1-11

Advent Series Themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

We can have JOY as we rely on the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 61:1a, *1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me...*

- This passage is about Jesus, how in His humanity He relied on the Holy Spirit for ministry. We should too!
- The Holy Spirit produces joy as part of His fruit in our lives: Galatians 5:22, *...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...*
- Romans 14:17, *For the kingdom of God is...of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...*

We can have JOY as we rest in the ministry of Jesus

Isaiah 61:1b-3, *...to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.*

- Isaiah 61:1b-2a is a prophetic description of Jesus' ministry that He fulfilled in His first coming (Luke 4:16-22)
- Isaiah 61:2b-3 is a prophetic description of Jesus' ministry that He will fulfill in His second coming.
- Matthew 11:28-30, *28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

We can have JOY as we respond by serving others

Isaiah 61:4-6, *4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 5 Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. 6 And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.*

- Look at the two contrasting descriptions: rebuild / restore / renew — vs. — ruins / devastated / ruined
- Which of those teams do you want to be on? Which of these effects do you want to have on those around you?
- It's our responsibility to serve others: *you will be called priests...you will be named ministers* (v.6)

We can have JOY as we replace shame with salvation

Isaiah 61:7-11, *7 Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. 8 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed." 10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.*

- Look at this great exchange we can make: *Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion* (v.7)
 - You can either hold onto sin & shame, or trade it for a savior & salvation!
 - We can go from rags to robes: *clothed me with garments of salvation* (v.10) & Zechariah 3:1-5
- How is that exchange possible?
 - It's the faithfulness of Jesus to go to the cross that saves us: *In my faithfulness I will reward my people* (v.8)
 - It's Jesus who covers our sin: *He has...arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness* (v.10)
- The result of this exchange: *everlasting joy will be yours* (v.7) & *I delight greatly in the Lord* (v.10)

This Christmas season:

- Remember, 71% say their biggest regret is they didn't take time to enjoy the season. Isaiah 61 shows us it's not just singing, decorations, buying gifts, but doing whatever it takes to center our hearts on Jesus to give us joy.
- It's not too late! What's one change you can make this week to slow down and find joy in Jesus?
 - Morning Gratitude: Start each day by writing down three things you're thankful for, then thank God for them.
 - Prayer Walk: Take a walk outside and use the time to pray, praising God for His creation and presence.
 - Silent Reflection: Set aside 10 minutes of silence each day to meditate on a joyful Psalm (like Psalm 100).
 - Worship Playlist: Create a playlist of worship songs that bring joy and listen while doing chores or commuting.
 - Serve Someone: Find a way to serve someone, such as baking cookies and writing an encouraging note.
 - Joy Jar: Start a "Joy Jar" for your kids to write down moments of joy you experience throughout the week.
 - Simplify Your Schedule: Identify one activity to remove from your schedule to make space for rest & reflection.
 - Practice Sabbath: Dedicate a day to disconnect, spend time with Jesus, and enjoy life-giving activities.
 - Text GIFT: to (951)425-4425 to bring some joy to a ministry you are passionate about with an end of year gift.