

What Will Jesus Do For Me?

Isaiah 61:1-3

INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus has done so much.
 - 1. He raised Lazarus back to life and comforted Mary and Martha.
 - 2. He fed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.
 - 3. He allowed the paralytic to walk.
- B. But, what can Jesus do for me?--This morning we'll answer that question.
- C. Like many passages in Isaiah, this text has a dual understanding.
 - 1. On the one hand, this passage refers to Isaiah's ministry.
 - a. Isaiah is prophesying concerning the coming captivity.
 - b. Isaiah is giving hope to those who will go into captivity that the nation will return to its homeland.
 - 2. On the other hand, this passage refers to Jesus' ministry.
 - a. Jesus applied this text to himself (Lk. 4:17-21).
 - b. This morning we want to examine this passage and see how this text applies to Jesus.

JESUS BRINGS ME HOPE, v 1

- A. The Israelites who would go into captivity would have every reason to despair.
 - 1. They would be in a foreign nation where they did not speak the language.
 - 2. They would be solely at the mercy of their captors.
 - 3. But, Isaiah says, "Wait. All isn't lost."
- B. Isaiah says that he has an important message.
 - 1. God has sent him to preach good tidings to the poor.
 - a. "Poor" here stands for those in distress.
 - b. For those in distress there are good tidings; there is hope.
 - 2. God has sent Isaiah to heal broken hearts.
- C. Jesus, too, proclaims good news and heals broken hearts; Jesus gives hope.
 - 1. Jesus gave hope to the woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8:2-11).
 - a. The scribes and Pharisees brought her to Jesus to test him.
 - b. No doubt, she expected him to be cruel as they had been.
 - c. Yet, he showed her forgiveness; he gave hope.
 - d. Jesus told this woman that she had value.
 - 2. Jesus gave hope to the publicly sinful woman (Lk. 7:37-50).
 - a. This woman was known in town as a sinner and she anointed Jesus oil with feet (vv. 36-38).
 - b. The Pharisee grumbled because Jesus allowed a sinner to touch him (vv. 39-46).
 - c. Jesus forgave this woman's sin (vv. 47-48).
- D. Jesus can give you hope.
 - 1. Illustration many Hope of Rescue?" Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations, #221
 - 2. The world wants to know, "Is there any hope?"
 - a. Jesus can heal your troubled marriage.
 - b. Jesus can heal your broken life.

JESUS BRINGS ME FREEDOM, v 1

- A. Isaiah would preach liberty to the captives and freedom to prisoners.
 - 1. Isaiah, through prophecy, promised the captives that they would return to their home.
 - 2. This people would be in captivity 70 years, but at the end of that time, they would go home.
 - 3. This freedom refers to the Year of Jubilee.
 - a. During this year, all debts and obligations were released and all slaves were released (Lev. 25:39-41).
 - b. Just as in the Year of Jubilee, Isaiah was promising freedom to these captives.
- B. Jesus frees us from captivity.
 - 1. We can be set free from sin (Rom. 6:18).
 - a. Sin enslaves.
 - 1) "His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cord of his sin" (Prov. 5:22).
 - 2) "They themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage" (2 Pet. 2:19).
 - b. Sin can enslave to the point where we are trapped.
 - 2. Jesus gives true freedom (Jn. 8:31-32).
 - 3. Jesus gives us the power to overcome sin.

JESUS BRINGS ME RECONCILIATION, v 2

- A. Isaiah was told to announce the acceptable year of the LORD.
 - 1. This, too, refers to the Year of Jubilee.
 - a. The fiftieth year was to be proclaimed as a year of liberty (Lev. 25:10).
 - b. Isaiah was to proclaim liberty--the captives would return to Jerusalem.
 - 2. These Jews had every reason to worry about God's favor.
 - a. Their being taken away from their homeland would show God's disfavor.
 - b. Judah had committed grave sins when God sent them into captivity--God would turn his back on his people.
 - c. Yet, Isaac announced such favor will be returned.
- B. Jesus, too, brings God's favor.
 - 1. Jesus reconciled us to God.
 - a. God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:8).
 - b. Jesus reconciled us to God through his cross (Eph. 2:16).
 - 2. To reconcile means to bring back together.
 - a. Jesus brought us back to God.
 - b. Because of Jesus' work, we can have fellowship with God.
- C. Isaiah also announced the day of vengeance.
 - 1. Although Babylon had served God's purpose during the Exile, God would punish Babylon.
 - 2. Throughout Isaiah, God promises vengeance upon the Babylonians.
 - 3. God's people could take comfort in God's promise to send punishment on those who had afflicted them.
- D. God will punish our enemies as well.
 - 1. God will "repay with tribulation those who trouble" us (2 Thess. 1:6).
 - 2. God will take vengeance on those who make fun of us, who try to discourage us, etc.

JESUS BRINGS ME JOY, vv 2b-3

- A. Isaiah preached a message of comfort.

1. Those who dwelt in Zion would have reason to rejoice--the city would be rebuilt.
 2. Isaiah would give them beauty for ashes and oil for mourning.
 - a. When in sorrow, individuals would put ashes on their head.
 - 1) But instead of ashes, Isaiah is going to give them beauty.
 - 2) "Beauty" here refers to the turban one would wear to a party.
 - 3) Instead of sorrow, God will give them reason to rejoice.
 - b. Oil symbolizes joy.
 - 1) Individuals would anoint themselves with oil to symbolize their joy.
 - 2) Isaiah would give these individuals reason to rejoice.
- B. Jesus gives us rejoicing as well.
1. We can rejoice because of what God has done for us (Is. 61:10).
 2. We can have joy because we are in Christ.
 - a. There was joy in aquaria when Philip preached there (Acts 8:8).
 - b. We rejoice with inexpressible joy because of our salvation (1 Pet. 1:8- 9).
 3. With Jesus we have reason to rejoice.
 - a. Our sins are forgiven.
 - b. Our home is in heaven.
 - c. No one can take away that joy!