



“The Lord has Anointed Me”

Isaiah 61:1-4

Today’s text is Isaiah 61:1-4, NASB

Introduction: What does “anointed for ministry” mean? Some thoughts.

- Does this sound daunting?
- Yes, if it our own strength!
- No, if it is actually God’ work!!

Let us consider Ezekiel and the dry bones vision as an example of God’s work in an individual. God’s anointing.

Ezekiel 37:1-10

- How did this work of ministry start?
- With Ezekiel’s statement: “The hand of the Lord was upon me.”
- Ezekiel was brought out, in the Spirit!
- He was commanded to prophesy over the bones.
- He was commanded a second time over the breath.

Of whom does Isaiah 61 speak? Of Jesus!

Luke 4:16-21

- Jesus declared that Isaiah passage to be fulfilled!
- The Spirit was upon Him; He was anointed.
- He was sent both to preach and proclaim.

What is the message of Isaiah working in Jesus?

- Good news to the afflicted.
- He will bind up the brokenhearted.
- He will proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to prisoners.
- He will proclaim the FAVORABLE YEAR of the Lord (and vengeance).
- He will comfort mourners.

What is the final state of these afflicted, captive people?

- They will become Oaks of Righteousness.
- They will be the planting of the Lord (not man).
- Their life purpose will be glorifying God.

BIG QUESTION #1: Where are you in this picture?

- Today is to be a day of release, healing and comfort.
- To become planted as God’s Oaks.

How does all this happen to people? It is God’s work! ILLUSTRATION: Matt’s Story.

- He is one of my five households for this year’s Each One Win One.
- We have actually been praying for several months!
- What happened? God makes multiple, personal visits!

After people are “released” and healed, and they become God’s Oaks, what happens?

- They REBUILD ancient ruins.
- They RAISE UP former devastations
- They REPAIR ruined cities, and generations.

How does this relate to us?

- Jesus, who fulfilled Isaiah 61, now sends us!
- John 17:18 – As God sent Me, I have sent them!
- John 20:21 – As the Father sent Me, I also send you!

BIG QUESTION #2: Do you want to be a rebuilders of lives?

- Today will be a day of anointing.
- Today a day of empowering.

Who is fit for such work? More of God’s work: ILLUSTRATION: Bill & Susan

If we are ready, what do we do? George Washington Carver STORY: “Peanut-sized Faith”

Frame no picture no how God might use you!

- Ask questions.
- Hear what God speaks.
- Go forward as He directs, to prophesy, or to work with peanuts!

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Whom do we see Jesus to be, according to Isaiah 61 & Luke 4? What does He do?
2. What things did Jesus have that we also have through salvation by faith? How does this help us?
3. How did Ezekiel accomplish the work of ministry as a priest & prophet according to Ezekiel 37? How was he not alone in the work?
4. What is the “Favorable Year of the Lord?” How does it relate to us?
5. What Good News do you need today?
6. What do you need to be released from?
7. What do you want to become in Christ, in the Spirit? How will it happen?