

Healing Isaiah 42 vs 3

This Christmas time we are looking at the wonderful gifts that Jesus has brought us. Last week, His gift of forgiveness where we are able to receive and give and it brings freedom and peace. We can't have one without the other, both sides of the same coin. Today we look at another wonderful gift that He has given us, that flows out of forgiveness – Healing.

The Act 3 climax

We want that to be there now when we are still in Act 2. Final Act is when Jesus comes, and we gather for the feast.

Prodigal son (**picture**)

As we read the story it seemed like the Act 3 climax, right?

Party...celebration... and everyone lived happily ever after. Well, not quite. They all got up again the next day and had to face reality.

This is where the personal and relational healing journey needs to begin. The gift of forgiveness is key to relational healing, but the ability to forgive and the experience of healing also connected to what I know to be true.

Ephesians 3 vs 17-19 (slide)

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Do I know this truth?

Neither of the sons knew or believed this, even though it was all around them, and it was true.

1.Relational healing (slide)

The key to relational healing is understanding, accepting and believing the riches of God's love and grace poured out on me. His Undeserved favor. His extravagant love and forgiveness towards me. This sets the stage for the healing journey. This is where humility is birthed that then becomes the healing balm in restoring relationships. The son has just had an incredible homecoming and experienced so much. Now he has woken up and the outworking of what happened the night

before needs to begin. The journey of receiving and giving forgiveness as Pavi taught so clearly last week

Earning the trust of his father again

Parents with kids- Trust is for me the number one issue with my teens. but what happens when it is broken? What did this dad do? What was son's attitude? Will he keep the attitude of humility? Trust needed to be built again.

Relational issues with brother- fairness, forgiveness, humility, understanding My brother and the impact on him – understanding his frustration

Issues left behind needing to be revisited. What brokenness was caused in the wild days. Part of healing and freedom is seeking peace and reconciliation in relationships that were impacted by my selfishness and rebellion.

When I understand, receive and experience extravagant grace, it puts me in a place where pride, selfishness, being the judge is dealt a blow and the aroma of humility follows me. Look at the son...Before he was selfish and self-absorbed, couldn't see what he had or his need for grace. Do you see your need for extravagant grace? Where are you in your journey of understanding His deep love for you? This is so important in the healing of relationships.

2. Personal healing (slide)

When salvation comes to a person it is a celebration and a joy. I realize that I am truly forgiven, loved, and accepted by my Father. I am born again. Something is significantly different But, it's only the beginning of the journey rather than the end. Now comes the work of learning to live in a whole new way. It's called life in the Spirit which means learning to surrender to a new voice in me so that freedom, fullness and healing can follow. The son's acceptance by his father and the big party were huge for his redemption but he wasn't suddenly all sorted out. The platform is now laid for the healing journey to begin. He woke up from an amazing experience with the same mind which now needed transformation.

The beauty of the gospel is that I come to Jesus as I am at any time and His extravagant grace is available to bring healing in the deepest places where the source of true freedom sits. My rebellion and sinful ways are always connected to my brokenness. It's in the healing that I can find freedom from the need to rebel and walk in destructive ways. The problem is that Enemy provides substitute healing with the goal of keeping me in bondage.

Substitute healing (slide)

This guy seemed to have an amazing Dad and home life. How could he not see it? He somehow didn't have eyes to see who he was or what he had, so went searching for answers in the world and squandered everything and returned broken only to discover what had been true all along, deeply loved and accepted by his father. It's belief that activates truth. Something may be true of me but if I don't believe it, it has no effect on me. It's believing truth that sets me free.

The god of this world is a master at offering substitutes. Master of the genuine fake.

Central Asia- genuine fake stores. **Panasonic, Nike, iPhone (pics)**...prices too good to be true...because it is too good to be true...watch stops working, sole breaks off. These all work in the short term but time exposes their fakeness.

Performance + accomplishments = significance (young people)

Status + recognition = security

Appearance + admiration = acceptance

Money, no boundaries, parties = freedom

We go here to find the deeper answers and come up empty. That's why Scripture gives us clarity about what is and isn't of God. Notice again how time is the test of what is true and what is fake.

1 John 2 vs 15-17 (slide)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

This is where we go for identity and healing (flesh, eyes, pride of life), it's a total trap and brings further bondage. Short term relief for long term bondage. God is a killjoy and yet the only boundaries He has for us is to keep us free. When I am stuck in these places it means I don't understand the love of the Father. If His love was in me, I would see these things for what they are FAKE. This is exactly what happened with the son. The love of his father was not in him.

He tried it all and ended up bankrupt...useless, garbage...thrown out...feeding pigs as a Jew. Alone with nothing to give. And now, who wants damaged goods? Who wants a bruised reed or a smoldering wick?

His father does.

This is the miracle and mystery of grace at its best. You can only discover the gift of extravagant grace when you realize you have nothing to give.

A sign of the coming Messiah:

Isaiah 42 vs 3 (slide)

**A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.**

Message (slide)

**He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt
and he won't disregard the small and insignificant,
but he'll steadily and firmly set things right.**

Reeds (pic)

Reeds are very common in the Middle East. They are used for a variety of things including:

Measuring device, walking stick, musical instrument, pens, baskets, spears, fishing. Shoes, sails, ropes, paper, fragrance. Reeds were extremely useful...until they were bruised. Then they were weak and good for nothing but to be broken and thrown away. Lost its effectiveness and leaves a stench. Unreliable and unusable. (sound like the son?)

Wicks (pic)

Wicks were used for weaving linen cloth. Priests clothing, shrouds for the dead, sails, ropes, nets, twines, and keeping flames alive in lamps. Once its smoldering it is passed its use, passed its sell by date.

Who wants something of no use? Get rid of the problem. He didn't come for the righteous but for the sick, the downtrodden, the bruised, the helpless, the broken, the hopeless, the orphan, the widow, the rejected, the weak, the poor. You feel any of that today? This is the gift of Christmas...He came for you. (USA ...lady liberty...Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door disabled...celebrate vs UZ...wow). Gift of Christmas.

He does not come to the "*bruised reed*" to destroy it, but to mend it, to repair it, reinforce it and to restore it.

He comes to the wick to soak it in oil and light it again.

This passage is a wonderful reminder that Jesus Christ can mend broken lives. All of us have experienced brokenness. Right now, some of us are struggling with failure. I have messed up. Is there hope? A way out? I feel useless, powerless and weak. If That's you then you are ready of extravagant grace. All you need to do is come home to the Father who waits with open arms. He wants to exchange it all for hope, strength, love, acceptance and healing.

How do we know He will receive us? Because this great Shepherd endured all of the same things for us. He knows. He is the wounded Healer

3.The Wounded healer (slide)

Isaiah 53 vs 5 (slide)

**But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.**

When Jesus went to the cross, He was “*crushed*”. He was “*bruised*” in our place and He was completely broken that we might be saved. When Jesus died on the cross...

2 Cor. 5:21. (slide)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When He was on the cross, He died in our place. When Jesus died, Satan was sure the light of the Lord had been snuffed out forever. Jesus became a “*bruised reed*” and a “*smoldering wick*” on the cross. Three days later, rose from the dead and now the risen Lord invites me, the bruised reed and smoldering wick, to a place of healing and restoration.

To a place where I can declare the truth that

Romans 8 vs 37 (slide)

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

God did not save your soul to allow you to be completely broken or to have your light snuffed out along the way. He saved you to do a work of grace in your life that would endure through eternity. (Louis) He saved with the assurance that He...

Phil. 1:6 (slide)

who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

4.The gift of healing (slide)

Do you want His gift of healing this Christmas?

Take a moment again...look at the manger...God becomes man, so you can be redeemed, so you can come home and experience the gift of healing. Freedom and restoration of your identity as a child of the living God, loved by your Father.

Since birth the enemy has had a strategy of destruction planned for you and me. To use people, circumstances and this world to destroy what is true of you and bring about so much brokenness. He now comes with truth and restores my brokenness.

So then after the redemption party the healing journey needs to continue. Uncovering all the lies and brokenness that gets in the way of believing what is true of me. Learning to embrace the truth of who I am because Jesus came for me. Then I live out of the life-giving truths that I am:

His beloved

His son/daughter

Made in His image for His glory

His delight

Designed to do great things

“Faith is finding out what is already true and choosing to believe it.” Anderson
(slide) This is the truth that brings me healing and freedom.

This is the healing Jesus offers.

The primary Source of healing is a restoration of your identity. God becomes man to come and demonstrate His love for us, so I can know and believe that I am loved by Him. That I can be forgiven and restored to a full relationship with Him. When I believe this my brokenness finds a path to be healed.

Response

Some of you have come as a bruised reed, discouraged and broken. Come to Jesus right now and let Him heal, restore, and repair you.

Some of you feel like your wick is smoldering. Your light has grown dim. Come to Jesus today. He will trim the wick, put fresh oil in the lamp and rekindle the flame once more. He will cause your light to shine brighter than ever.

Some of you have had the truth all around you, never rebelled and yet never recognized your need for extravagant grace... come home.

Some of you have drifted and gone your own way. The Father's arms are wide open waiting to receive you, to show you grace and a healing journey. "Father, I have sinned against you and heaven." Come home.

Some have experienced extravagant grace but have not embraced the healing journey. Today, commit to embracing the journey.

He is here calling you. Respond to him.

Prayer stations

Front

In your seat

Come to the Father...

Prayer

Band thanks, prayer room, meet and greet stay after, Joy to the world