

## **ISAIAH 61:1-4**

### **FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM**

**Isaiah 61:1-4** – *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.*”

**Because of his advent, Jesus our Savior brings us from bondage to freedom.**

**Advent** – *“a coming into place, view, or being; arrival”*

**Ask Yourself:** To what or to whom are you in bondage to today?

**In bringing us from bondage to freedom, Jesus our Savior...**

**1. Proclaims good news into your poor condition (v. 1)**

**Matthew 5:3** – *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

- He binds up our brokenness.
- He proclaims liberty.
- He opens the prison door.

**Martyn Lloyd-Jones** – *“[Poverty of Spirit] means a complete absence of pride, a complete absence of self-assurance and of self-reliance. It means a consciousness that we are nothing in the presence of God. It is nothing, then, that we can produce; it is nothing that we can do in ourselves. It is just this tremendous awareness of our utter nothingness as we come face-to-face with God... I say again, it is to feel that we are nothing, and that we have nothing, and that we look to God in utter submission to Him and utter dependence upon Him and His grace and mercy.”*

**Luke 18:13** – *“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”*

**Q:** What is the GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL for our POOR condition?

1. Jesus our Savior HEALS the BROKENHEARTED (v. 1b)
2. Jesus our Savior LIBERATES us from our DARK SLAVERY to SIN (v. 1c)

**Q:** What is this GOSPEL that FREES us from our BONDAGE?

**2 Corinthians 8:9** – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

- He owed God nothing. He was not a debtor to God in any sense. He never broke God’s law.
- But for me, He became sin that I might be the righteousness of God.

**Martyn Lloyd-Jones** – “And how does he make us rich? Well listen to it. It’s like this: He brings us to God. There is no such thing as spiritual riches apart from God. You can’t get it by culture. You can’t get it from philosophy. Music won’t give it to you. There is only one way to be spiritually wealthy. And that is to be in contact with God. God is the source of all riches. He’s the giver of every good and perfect gift. And to be rich, I must be right with God. Christ has come down from Heaven in order to link me to God. And thereby He makes me rich.”

## 2. Provides comfort for all who mourn (vv. 2-3)

**Charles Spurgeon** – “Jesus undertakes the cause of the troubled! He was a mourner all His days and, therefore, He is very tender toward mourners – ‘I know their sorrows,’ He says. ‘In all their afflictions, He was afflicted.’ ...

*Rejoice, O mourner, for the Man of Sorrows thinks upon you!”*

**Psalm 23:4** – “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** – “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and deed.”

Jesus our Savior *establishes* and *dresses* us as oaks of righteousness.

**Q:** How have we been *established* as an oak of righteousness?

**A:** We are *established* and rooted in Christ by God’s hand through salvation (2 Cor. 1:21)

**Q:** How has Jesus our Savior chosen to *dress* us as oaks of righteousness?

1. He has given me a *beautiful headdress*... instead of ashes.
2. He has given me the *oil of gladness*... instead of mourning.
3. He has given me a *garment of praise*... instead of a faint spirit.

**Q:** Why has Jesus our Savior *established* and *dressed* us as oaks of righteousness?

**A:** That He might put His beauty on display through us!

**Charles Spurgeon** – “O you that are troubled because of sin, and hate it – all God’s heart goes out toward you!... For whom are clothes but for the naked? For whom are alms provided but for the needy? For whom the bath but for the filthy? For whom the medicine but for the sick? For whom God’s grace but for you that need it and mourn because of your need?

*Come and welcome!”*

## Response:

1. Joyfully join God on His mission to restore this world from its present devastation. (v. 4)
  - In all you do, in every place you go, put the beauty of the Lord on display for all to see.

**Ray Ortlund** – *“The flavor of Christianity is joy. That’s significant, because life [apart from Jesus] stinks.”*

**Ray Ortlund** – *“Everything is broken. So here’s a radical proposal: We need a Savior. And the only person in the history of the human race who qualifies is Jesus Christ. He came to recreate for us a culture of life. And Isaiah’s point in verse 4 is that gospel-liberated people themselves become a creative force for restoration. That’s our mission... The mission of Jesus and His church will be rebuilding ruins when every noble human salvation is falling into ruins.”*

2. Rest and Run, finding your peace and strength in the sure victory of Jesus our Savior.