

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

### **FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM**

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

**Martyn Lloyd-Jones** – “As we face the modern world with all its trouble and turmoil and with all its difficulties and sadness, nothing is more important than that we who call ourselves Christian, and who claim the Name of Christ, should be representing our faith in such a way before others as to give them the impression that here is the solution, and here is the answer. In a world where everything has gone so sadly astray, we should be standing out as men and women apart, people characterized by a fundamental joy and certainty in spite of conditions, in spite of adversity.”

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

**Luke 4:16-22** – And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

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

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

#### **1. Speaks good news into our 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.

**Ray Ortlund** – “What is the good news? The gospel announces that Christ has won the victory over everything that’s against us. If you’ve committed what you think is the unpardonable sin, if you’re broken by your failures, if you fear that your chance at life is over—Jesus announces to you a life so new that, if you understand what he’s saying, you’ll have difficulty believing it can be yours.”

## 2. Comforts us in our mourning (vv. 2-3)

**Matthew 5:4** – *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*

- He gives a headdress instead of ashes.
- He gives the oil of gladness.
- He calls us oaks of righteousness.

## 3. Raises us up in our devastation (v. 4)

**Matthew 5:5** – *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

- He builds up.
- He repairs.

**Ray Ortlund** – *“Jesus came with a message different from what our emotions tell us. Our emotions tell us that God is against us, we’ve exhausted our possibilities, life is a waste, so why not just settle into mediocrity and make the best of it? We live in an age of despair. But it’s a smiling despair, softened by consumer convenience, driving through for a “happy meal” along the way. Into our age Jesus says, “I came to bear your guilty despair far away, and to replace it with joy inexpressible and filled with glory.” He does it single-handedly. He has the Spirit. He has the Word. That’s all he needs to remake the whole world, beginning with you and me.”*

**Paul Tripp** – *“God’s mercy is a radical theology, but it is more than a theology; it is life to all who believe. God’s mercy is ultimate comfort, but it is also a call to a brand-new way of living. God’s mercy really does change everything forever, for all upon whom this mercy is bestowed.”*

### Response:

**Q1:** Do you want freedom today?

**Q2:** What keeps you from taking hold of the freedom found in Jesus our Savior?