

Isaiah 61

The Vision and Mission of God

June 18, 2017 (Father's Day)

Main Point: Christians are oaks of righteousness put on display for the advertisement of the glory of God, the power of God, the mercy of God, and the love of God for the world.

**SI:** Why this passage?

One of the themes of the Bible is that God sees. In the beginning, on the first day of Creation, God created light. It is by light that we see. On the last day of Creation, God sees all that He had made and it was very good.

Here in Isaiah, that God sees is a primary theme > He sees the oppression that rebellion against His fatherly care brings.

Just before our passage in Is 59:15 > Isaiah says, "Truth is lacking...The Lord saw it and it displeased Him that there was no justice."

Isaiah goes on: "He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought Him salvation, and His righteousness upheld Him."

Then here in our passage > The emergence of an individual speaking in the first person singular - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon ME...the Lord has anointed ME..." The appearance of This Anointed One is not out of nowhere - His appearing is prophesied throughout the OT and throughout Isaiah. He appears in the Servant Songs - The Servant who will mediate the work of the Lord for the good of the world.

This is God fulfilling His own need for someone to do something about the troubles. And it is quite an announcement — and just a heads up - and the cynic in me, maybe the cynic in you — is tempted to discount this as a nice story, but way too good and too large to be true. May the Spirit break through —

Read and pray.

**Intro:**

The Vision and Mission of God through His Prophet Isaiah. What Isaiah sees coming in the future has been fulfilled in Christ's coming and will be completely fulfilled with His Second Coming. His Mission is being fulfilled through His Church.

\*A note about vision and mission... vision is a desired future, mission is how that vision plays out, what the vision looks like as it is implemented.

So this is big, right? It seems audacious and I looked at the title of this sermon and thought, really? Maybe too bold and over the top dramatic... But this is what God does with a vision like this -

ESV Study Bible > “The Anointed Preacher Renewing the World” > Not a big deal or anything! A Huge, Divine Vision and Mission.

Attacking our cynicism. Overcoming us. Assaulting us. We need this b/c we are so prone to the hum, we get used to the noise. We grow accustomed to tolerating evil. And so we need, constantly need renewal in the vision and mission of God. He is at work restoring and healing, preventing and limiting evil. To give us hope and confidence to keep fighting the good fight.

So Isaiah says, lets look at the roots, the trees, and the fruit.

### **1The Roots > Rooted in Christ (vs. 1-3)**

7 Purpose clauses: / What the Messiah Will Do and Did

- To bring good news
- To bind up the brokenhearted
- To proclaim liberty to the captives
- To open the prison
- To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor
- To comfort those who mourn
- To grant, to give beauty and gladness

\*God’s vision fulfilled in Jesus – Luke 4 > This is the passage Jesus deliberately sought out as the starting point of His public ministry. He stopped at 61:2a and did not quote the rest about the day of vengeance. Jesus expressing His mission at that point - not to condemn the world, but to save the world.

This, these 7 clauses, this is what the Messiah will come to do. This is what Jesus does for all who will trust in Him.

B/c you know what it takes to be rooted. First you have to be planted. (end of v. 3)

What does it take to plant a seed? A cutting open of the crust of the earth, a slit in the soil, a hole in the ground, a breaking open of the hard ground — those of you who like to garden. What happens after you wet the soil and come back a day or two later? The earth has developed a dry crust that has to be broken through.

God will break you open, either in this life towards repentance and flourishing contentment and rest and a fruitful life, or you will be broken in the next life to vengeance and condemnation.

\*Bunyan quote – “God will break all hearts for sin, either here to repentance and happiness, or in the world to come, to condemnation and misery.” (The Acceptable Sacrifice)

And these promises are staggering. Jesus would pick them up again in the Beatitudes - Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn —

This is what the Messiah does - Look at the contrasts >

Isaiah says, let's compare and contrast.

Why this is good news.

You know the bad news. You see it every day. I've prophesied against you and against your neighbors b/c there is so much injustice and oppression...

Poor, broken-hearted, captives, imprisoned, blind, mourning, covered with ashes, weak, fainting, ruined, devastated, ashamed, dishonored.

**Compare** with:

Anointed by Yahweh, healed, freed, released from prison, given favor, comforted, receiving beauty and gladness, built up, raised up, repaired, called priests and ministers by the rest of the world, moved from empty to fabulously wealthy and full, looked upon with respect and thanksgiving by the world, given a double portion, and more...

And it all starts with the seed of faith, believing these promises. And once that seed is planted, it will grow.

## **2The Trees > Forests of Oaks (vs. 3-9)**

What will be done by those accomplishing the vision, fulfilling the vision, making the vision come into reality

How does Jesus do this? How does he fulfill these 7 clauses? By planting trees.

The Mission - What those who trust in the Messiah will become >

Oaks of Righteousness -

What the oaks of righteousness will do >

Building up, repairing, restoring

So that even the unbelieving world (vs. 5-6) stands up and notices and wants to work for you b/c they see you are bringing life to the world. Proving to the world that the world

needs us so much so that kings respect us and we rejoice. You do this, Lord? Yes. This is what He does.

It gets better > He gives the formerly devastated a double inheritance of land. The land that you get to enjoy now, the stability and fruitfulness of where you live and what you bring to life and what decay you prevent AND the future inheritance of eternity when you will live in the New Heavens and New Earth as they become one.

It says it right here: v. 7, “They shall have everlasting joy.” See why this is the Vision and Mission of God? Only a Divine Vision through the Mission of the Anointed One could accomplish this... And so we get an insight into Hebrews 12:2> “For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross”

Only this vision can cut through our cynicism in a world gone rash and violent. The culture is losing it's walls. The Church truly is the hope for the world.

app: vs. 4-7 > how God does this - through church planting - we need lots more churches - sound like a **commercial** - “clinically proven based on peer reviewed journal studies verified by decades of lab driven experimentation...” - to bring the foreigners in, Isaiah is talking about Gentiles, non-Israelites - applying it to non-Christians - in order to bring them in, we need to plant more churches — and our church, a resource church!

So the roots lead to the forest and now, the fruit >

### **3The Fruit > Righteousness and Praise on Display (vs. 10-11)**

These last 2 verses answer the question, so what? What's the big deal about this vision and mission of God? Why should I care? Answers the question, why should I trust Him? Why are you a Christian? What difference does He make? B/c this is what God does > He brings about righteousness and praise from these forests of oaks, this garden of fruitfulness >

Imagery turns from oaks to gardens.

The two characteristics of the Church. The fruit of faith. The fruit of salvation. The city on the hill, the salt of the earth. All a result of planting. You reap what you sow. God plants and the result is the mustard tree where all the birds of the air find shade and rest. God is for the world.

**Righteousness >**

Oaks of Righteousness > Some want the oak, but they want it in an above ground planter that they make, they don't want planted in the ground of their own heart and life. They want the tree but not the root. They see the tree and love the benefit of the tree, but they want it without the root. They want the fruit, but have disdain for the root. They want the fruit without the righteousness. Being around the church, being in the church, having the protection of the church, the shade of the church, but disbelieving in the necessity of the righteousness.

(Be ultra **clear** on what this righteousness is - the righteousness of God that He bestows, that He grants by faith, not by works. Not an infused righteousness that comes through the sacraments, but a passive righteousness, a righteousness that happens to you, that is received by faith, by trust, by renouncing any righteousness of my own, any rightness, anything good in me.)

So easy to be faked out, to be self-deceived, to still be relying on your own righteousness. See, b/c I wonder if some of you are even now defending yourselves as you hear this! I'm not self-righteous! ...

And there is not much we can do about this... to call people to repentance - joyful repentance - the benefit of righteousness is there, if you will repent and trust in God alone and renounce, die to, your own righteousness!

**This is my story...** passion comes out here, b/c I know what it is to seek a righteousness of my own instead of seeking the righteousness of Christ, a passive, received righteousness that is unearned. I know what it is to be in the church, to be a baptized church member and yet be self-deceived.

I loved the benefit of the church, but I was not a true self-denying, Christ-exalting Believer. God did a mighty work as He must do in all of His saints, and he brought me into the kingdom, but before that I was a boaster.

Boasting in our own status, what we do ourselves to make ourselves acceptable to God, pride in my own abilities or inabilities or anything at all that I count as a benefit to me - these things can so easily hide in the shadows of our souls.

Such as... I'm a good guy, I'm more tolerant than others, I'm more patient, I don't do things the way that they do them, I'm in a denomination that has it together more than others, I'm this or I'm that in comparison with others, things that feed pride and starve humility instead of the other way around!

But when you are planted by the Lord, the oak forest will do what oak forests do, it will dominate the landscape. And the forest fires of trials that come will burn up the underbrush, the pride and the fear, and the oaks will remain strong and resilient.

See, these oaks are planted by the Lord, planted by Him. Sprouted by His work, His rain, His tending, His pruning, His light shining giving life and growth.

So that THIS righteousness, this kind of righteousness, does nothing but lead you to praise and to praise more and more. It's the kind of fruit Paul displays when he goes through all these things he used to boast in, used to take pride in, used to love about himself — and now, he calls them garbage in comparison with the received righteousness of Christ credited to him by faith. Don't you see? This then is the garden, the beautiful forest, the images just pile up of praise-worthiness things that have nothing to do with human accomplishment, but of God-size accomplishments harkening back to vs. 3-9.

### **Praise >**

Praise - Look at how this theme of praise is throughout this chapter - v. 3, v. 9, v. 11. You are planted so that God will be glorified. How does He glorify Himself? By others acknowledging - it doesn't say praising you - but acknowledging that God has done this - that God has blessed these oaks.

That acknowledging may even be displayed through hatred - righteousness received is hated by the world b/c the world wants righteousness that is earned and they see that Christians have this righteousness that is received, that can't be earned, this position in Christ, this status as beloved sons and daughters - and they acknowledge it sometimes through hatred and persecution. You know how the prettiest girl who had nothing to do with her own beauty is sometimes hated and sometimes has to flee.

So what is my role? What is your role? Look at this... your role, my role is **PRAISE!**

Awe, wonder, amazement, childlike fascination at how amazing this is... wide eyed wonder at the **carousel**... (illus of taking young kids to the Galleria and riding the carousel - it seems old fashioned - tell the story and the details) how does this work, how do they do this, this is so fun, this is amazing, this is I can't believe this, waving, smiling, laughing, enjoying it to the fullest extent, no inhibitions, just purity in the innocence of not caring what others think, loving it when others notice and smile b/c they are bringing joy to others who see them and everything changes for those watching...

This is how God has designed us. In response to His planting, His righteousness received, this is what we do, this is who we are, people of joy displaying His

righteousness, a passive righteousness received, and praising God, the Father of all mercies.

Bene: Jude 24

Isaiah 61  
The Vision and Mission of God  
June 18, 2017 (Father's Day)

**Main Point:** Christians are oaks of righteousness put on display for the advertisement of the glory of God, the power of God, the mercy of God, and the love of God for the world.

The benefit that Christians have been to the world ever since Adam and Eve. The Vision and Mission of God. Let's go. Let's soar. Let's rise. (Rising – Switchfoot)

**SI:** Why this passage?

The Vision and Mission of God through His Prophet Isaiah. What Isaiah sees coming in the future has been fulfilled in Christ, is being fulfilled through His Church, gives us strong encouragement to continue on through the fight of faith.

**Intro:** ESV Study Bible: [Isa. 61:1–62:12](#) The Anointed Preacher Renewing the World. The Messiah will preach into existence his new, liberated people, who will pray into existence his new, redeemed world.

“The Anointed Preacher Renewing the World” > Not a big deal or anything! A Huge, Divine Vision and Mission.

Insulting our cynicism. Attacking our cynicism. Overcoming us. Assaulting us. We need this b/c we are so prone to the hum, we get used to the noise. ILLUS of living next to railroad tracks and getting used to the noise. We grow accustomed to tolerating evil. Well, that's just the way they are, that's just the way it is and it will always be this way, no sense in rocking the boat, no reason to call that out and identify it as destructive. The slow squeeze of the constrictor snake. Kills you slowly, but still kills you.

From this to that / From broken to bound up /  
Why this is good news.

The contrast. Isaiah says, let's compare and contrast. You know the bad news. You see it every day. I've prophesied against you and against your neighbors b/c there is so much injustice and oppression. You are blind and don't know it, and my ministry leads to a whole lot of unrepentance and deeper hardening of hearts.

Poor, broken-hearted, captives, imprisoned, blind, mourn, ashes, weakness, faintness, ruined, devastated, ashamed, dishonor, robbery, wrongdoing.

Compare with:

Anointed by Yahweh, bind up, proclaim liberty, opening of the prison, proclaim favor, vengeance upon evil, comfort, beautiful headdress, oil of gladness, garment of praise, oaks of righteousness, build up, raise up, repair, called priests and ministers, from empty to fabulously wealthy and full, looked upon with respect and thanksgiving by the world (foreigners), double portion, rejoicing, everlasting joy, justice, recompense, fame.

The Roots > Rooted/Planted in Christ

The Trees > Forests of Oaks

The Fruit > Righteousness and Praise on Display

### **The Roots > Rooted in Christ (vs. 1-3)**

#### **7 Purpose clauses: / What the Messiah Will Do and Did**

- To bring good news
- To bind up the brokenhearted
- To proclaim liberty
- To open the prison
- To proclaim favor
- To comfort
- To grant, to give

Why people love Jesus, why people are drawn to Jesus. Love Walked Among Us.

\*God's vision fulfilled in Jesus – Luke 4

This is what the Messiah will do.

This is what Messiah Jesus did.

This is what Messiah Jesus does through His people, through His Church.

I like to know why. I like to know what.

Encouragement and warning What does it take to plant a seed – a cutting open of the crust of the earth, a slit in the soil, a hole in the ground, a breaking open of the hard ground– Bunyan quote – God will break all sins towards repentance, either in this life or the next...

Trans to two: And once that seed is planted, it will grow.

### **The Trees > Forests of Oaks (vs. 3-9)**

## **The Mission - What those who trust in the Messiah will become > Oaks of Righteousness**

How does Jesus do this? How does he fulfill these 7 clauses? By planting trees. Imagery of planting trees. What are trees, what do they do? Why an image of a tree, a collection of trees, a forest? Resources for establishing a symbiotic biological system with trees as the foundation.

vs. 4-7 > how God does this - through church planting - we need lots more churches - sound like a commercial - “clinically proven based on peer reviewed journal studies verified by decades of lab driven experimentation...” but it’s true - to bring the foreigners in, Isaiah is talking about Gentiles, non-Israelites - applying it to non-Christians - in order to bring them in, we need to plant more churches — and our church, a resource church!

Look at us, look at who we are. Look at who you are. Look at a vision of who you are, and the mission for who God has and is making you to be. Rising.

What fathers are called to be and do. Only through Christ.

### **The Fruit > Righteousness and Praise on Display (vs. 10-11)**

**This is what Jesus does.** Answers the question, why should I trust Him? Why are you a Christian? What difference does He make?

v. 11 is soil. Garden soil. The earth’s dirt.

If the garden soil is right, the seeds planted will grow and produce.

Imagery turns from oaks to gardens.

**Righteousness** > Rom 1:17. Wholeness, truth, justice, completeness, cure for guilt and shame. Application >

Have children

Adopt

Foster

Do things that have long term impact on the kingdom

Create businesses, create jobs

Build affordable, beautiful housing and invite the poor.

Bring about honesty, justice, healing. Take risks to love people.

God gives His people resources. We are oak trees, and oak forest.

**Praise** > The character of a Christian, the deep root from which all else springs. There is always something for which to praise God. And so what does the Church primarily do? Worship. Worth-ship. The happiness of the people of God. Therefore the tolerance of evil, injustice, incompleteness, imperfection. Human righteousness is impossible. But divine righteousness is not only possible, it’s all there is in Him. No unrighteousness exists in Him.

The two characteristics of the Church. The fruit of faith. The fruit of salvation. The city on the hill, the salt of the earth. All a result of planting. You reap what you sow. God plants and the result is the mustard tree where all the birds of the air find shade and rest. God is for the world.

Praise - Look at how this theme of praise is throughout this chapter - v. 3, v. 9, v. 11. You are planted so that God will be glorified. How does He glorify Himself? By others acknowledging - it doesn't say praising you - but acknowledging that God has done this - that God has blessed these oaks. That acknowledging may even be displayed through hatred - righteousness received is hated by the world b/c the world wants righteousness that is earned and they see that Christians have this righteousness that is received, that can't be earned, this position in Christ, this status as beloved sons and daughters - and they acknowledge it sometimes through hatred and persecution. You know how the prettiest girl who had nothing to do with her own beauty is sometimes hated and sometimes has to flee.

Oaks of Righteousness > Some want the oak and think they can dispense of the righteousness. Some want the oak but they want it in a planter, not in the ground. They want the tree but not the root. They see the tree and love the benefit of the tree, but they want it without the root. They want the fruit, but don't have time for the root. They want the fruit without the righteousness. Being around the church, being in the church, having the protection of the church, the shade of the church, but disbelieving in the necessity of the righteousness. (Be ultra clear on what this righteousness is - the righteousness of God that He bestows, that He grants by faith, not by works. Not an infused righteousness that comes through the sacraments, but a passive righteousness, a righteousness that happens to you, that is received by faith, by trust, by renouncing any righteousness of my own, any rightness, anything good in me.) So easy to be faked out, to be self-deceived, to still be relying on your own righteousness. See, b/c I wonder if some of you are even now defending yourselves as you hear this! I'm not self-righteous!

...

And there is not much we can do about this... but trust the sovereignty of God and pray for wisdom, discernment, boldness. And to call people to repentance - joyful repentance - the benefit of righteousness is there, if you will repent and trust in God alone and renounce, die to, your own righteousness! This is my story... passion comes out here, b/c I know what it is to seek a righteousness of my own instead of seeking the righteousness of Christ, a passive, received righteousness that is unearned. Boasting in our own righteousness, pride in my own abilities or inabilities or anything at all that I count as a benefit to me - these things can so easily hide in the shadows of our souls. And the oak will dominate them, the oak will shade them out and kill them, starve them from above and from below. From above by the shade, and from below by the roots soaking up all the rain and nutrients. See, these oaks are planted by the Lord, planted by Him. Sprouted by His work, His rain, His tending, His pruning, His light shining giving life and growth. So what is my role? What is your role? Look at this... your role, my role is **PRAISE!** Awe, wonder, amazement, childlike fascination at how amazing this is... wide eyed wonder at the **carousel**... (illus of taking young kids to the Galleria and riding the carousel - it seems old fashioned - tell the story and the details) how does this work, how do they do this, this is so fun, this is amazing, this is I can't believe this, look at this thing, waving, smiling, laughing, enjoying it to the fullest extent, no inhibitions, just purity in the innocence of not caring what others think, loving it when others notice and smile b/c they are bringing joy to others who see them and

everything changes for those watching... This is how God has designed us. In response to His planting, His righteousness received.

<sup>2</sup> And <sup>m</sup>the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

*The Lord's Chosen Servant*

<sup>42</sup> <sup>e</sup>Behold <sup>f</sup>my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, <sup>g</sup>in whom my soul delights;  
<sup>h</sup>I have put my Spirit upon him;  
<sup>i</sup>he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>16</sup> <sup>y</sup>Draw near to me, hear this:  
from the beginning I have not spoken in secret,  
from the time it came to be I have been there.”  
And now <sup>z</sup>the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> <sup>y</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord <sup>z</sup>is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to <sup>a</sup>proclaim good news to the poor.  
<sup>b</sup>He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and <sup>c</sup>recovering of sight to the blind,  
<sup>d</sup>to set at liberty those who are oppressed,