

Title: Praise God for the Servant of the Lord

Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-11

Series: Topical

1. Introduction –

a. Last week we were blessed to spend some time studying Isaiah 61:1-3. We marveled at how clearly the Servant of the Lord, Jesus Christ Himself, spoke about the work of salvation that He would accomplish on behalf of the elect of God. From this passage we learned:

i. That salvation can only come through Christ because He has been consecrated for this Work by the Holy Spirit. It is this very same Holy Spirit that has anointed Christ with sufficient grace to accomplish the work.

1. Because of this truth, there can be no salvation outside of Jesus Christ!

2. **Acts 4:11-12** This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. (12) And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

a. Brothers and Sisters, there is no other name by which we can be reconciled to God!

ii. The Servant of the Lord accomplishes his task through the preaching of the good news (Gospel) to the poor in spirit and the broken. These two conditions are spiritual, being metaphors for

someone who by God's grace has been able to fully understand their deplorable sin condition.

1. These are sinners whom God has stripped of their self-pride.
 - a. **1 Peter 5:5(B)** ...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- iii. As part of this salvation, the Servant of the Lord will free His people from the bonds of slavery and from prison's dungeon.
 1. Salvation is always accompanied by freedom.
 2. Freedom to walk in obedience and in love.
- iv. The work of the Servant of the Lord is an open demonstration of the favor of God.
 1. His people must be unafraid of the judgment that will befall all who reject Jesus Christ. God has set His love over His people.
- v. The Servant of the Lord will comfort those that mourn because of sin. He will exchange their mourning into celebration. Those that were once dead in sins are now alive in Christ!
 1. **Psalms 30:11** You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
- vi. Finally, we learned that the people who had once been poor in spirit, broken, enslaved, imprisoned, mournful and unloved are all-at-once miraculously transformed by the substitutionary death of their Messiah. They become the “**oaks of righteousness**” and the “**plantings of the Lord.**” They are radically transformed.

- b. Last week’s portion ended with the Servant of the Lord declaring that His ministry (salvation itself) is meant to bring **glory to God**.
 - c. Today, in the last two verses of this chapter, we hear a single grateful voice that symbolizes all whom the Servant of the Lord has redeemed. Here the emphasis is on the benefits that the redeemed have received from God in His sending the Servant of the Lord. In the first three verses of this chapter, the Servant of the Lord accomplishes salvation so that the people of God may become “**oaks of righteousness**.” Here the redeemed praise God for having clothed them with that same righteousness.
 - d. The purpose of these last two verses is again offer praise and bring glory to the Father for sending the Servant of the Lord. It is understood that the salvation of the people of God, accomplished by the Servant of the Lord, glorifies the father to highest degree.
 - e. At this point, I would like to remind you that this portion of Isaiah is poetic in nature and that it incorporates the literary tool known as parallelism.
2. Verse 10(A): We Rejoice in God: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, (Parallelism)
- a. Our passage begins with an emphasized announcement of Joy.
 - b. However, the reason for the speaker’s **joy** and **exultation** is not the change of situation for God’s people. The change from death to life is profound but the reason for **rejoicing** and **exultation** is found only

in God Himself. He rejoices in **the Lord** and exults in **my God**.

- i. God has loved His people to the highest degree possible. He gives His Son.
 - ii. He has sent the Servant of the Lord to make propiation for their sins.
 1. Therefore, He has not spared His own Son but has given Him up so that His people would now the blessedness of forgiveness.
 2. He has made the Son to drink every drop of His wrath. The Son is punished as a transgressor in substitution.
 - iii. Because of this, it is right that the eyes of those redeemed should be on the glorious Father.
 - iv. God's people must **rejoice** in Him and **exult** Him forever because He has loved them.
 1. This is the feeling that gripped Mary. We read in **Luke 1:46-49** And Mary's heart said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, (48) for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant... (49) for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
- c. For this reason, we find that apart from the Creator and Savior of the universe there can be no true joy.
- i. Apart from God, there is only sin, destruction, imprisonment, brokenness, slavery, and death!
 1. Consider the words of **Psalms 40:2-3** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure. (3) He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

3. Verse 10(B): God's Salvation: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, (Parallelism)

a. What has God done to cause such exhilaration? He has **clothed His people with the garments of salvation** and He has **covered His people with the robe of righteousness.**

b. **Salvation** is a rescuing of our souls from the grip of Hell. This is the fate of all men. Sin condemns us all! However, God, in His mercy, chooses to clothe His elect people with **Salvation**. The bible clearly teaches that **Salvation** belongs to God and not to man.

i. **Psalms 3:8** Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah

ii. **Matthew 19:25-26** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" (26) But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

c. Notice that God's people are also **robed in Righteousness**. This shows that salvation is more than a mere deliverance from physical bondage or spiritual guilt. God delivers from one thing and into another. God expects the delivered to manifest his nature. Those whom he wraps in his robe of righteousness experience not only deliverance from

unrighteousness and its effects but also divine enablement to live out his righteousness.

- i. **Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- d. God commands righteousness, and He by his power alone provides it. That is the reason for our joy.
- e. The speaker, on behalf of all the saved by God in the Servant of the Lord, expresses the wonder of God's love toward the collective group. In the beginning of this chapter we read that, the Servant of the Lord came for the poor, broken, enslaved, and imprisoned. We see a corporate group described. The Church of God. The Body of Christ.
 - i. However, there is also a personal application in what we read. We note that the speaker states that God had clothed and robed **me**. God saves a group by saving individuals. Therefore each individual Christian must be grateful. The individual's gratefulness rises to God and joins the corporate body of praise.

4. Verse 10(C): Illustration of the Beauty of Salvation and Righteousness: as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Parallelism)

- a. The joyous tone of our portion is heightened by the use of wedding imagery. Notice that salvation is compared to a **groom's headdress** and righteousness to a **bride's adornment with costly jewels**.
- b. Here, the people of God rejoice over the headdress that God has given. Just as the bridegroom excitedly

puts on his turban, and the bride delights over her jewels.

- i. To the believer, the **salvation** and the **righteousness** in which he is dressed is like the finest wedding apparel.
 - ii. It transforms them into something special and beautiful.
 - iii. The two are able to stand arrayed in beauty before the God of Heaven.
- c. However, the joy is not over the garments themselves; it is over the one who has made it possible for us to be dressed in **salvation** and **righteousness**.
- i. **Titus 3:4-6** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- d. At this point, let us consider this new clothing (**salvation and righteousness**) supplied to us by our Messiah. Let us consider it in light of the Day of the Lord. That God has, through the Son, clothed us in His **Salvation** and **Righteousness** means that we are forgiven, accepted, and made right before His eyes.
- i. We must note that we naturally stand in polluted garments before God. **Isaiah 64:6** We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

ii. There is not a more terrifying thought for me than to be found dressed in my own deceptive, polluted self-righteousness before God on the day of judgement. Let us shun this natural tendency of man. Let us run to Jesus to be clothed with God's garment of **salvation and righteousness**. Consider **Zechariah 3:1-4** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (2) And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" (3) Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. (4) And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the **filthy garments** from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will **clothe** you with pure vestments."

5. Verse 11: All Nations Behold the Work of the Lord: For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. (Parallelism)

a. Before and even after the blessings of **Salvation and Righteousness**, the people of God are unable, on their own account, to produce the **righteousness** and **praise** that God deserves.

- b. God, in His own sovereignty, will produce **righteousness** and **praise** in His people. As surely as year after year, the earth causes seeds sown in it to sprout and grow; God will produce in His saints godlikeness.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
 - c. Brothers and Sisters, if nature is reliable, how much more is the Creator of nature!
 - i. God will plant **righteousness** and **praise** in the hearts of His people, and it will spring up like flowers for His own Glory.
 - d. This will be done **before all nations**: The redeemed of the Lord will shine before the world. God will be glorified in His mighty work.
 - i. **Matthew 13:43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father...
6. Benediction:
- a. **Psalms 115:1** Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Public Reading of Scripture

Psalm 29