

Isaiah: Revealing the Rescuer

Seeing Jesus in Isaiah: A New Ministry

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Share about a time you had to wait to hear news you were waiting for...what was the news (good or bad) and how did that affect you?

The Book of Isaiah reveals to us many things about a rescuer who will be sent from God to redeem, save, and restore lost people and religious hypocrites. The expectant words of Isaiah come into full bloom in the New Testament where it is clearly revealed that it is Jesus who has come on a mission from God to rescue humanity and restore all of creation. This series will help us behold the beauty of Jesus as he is revealed in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah Jesus-sightings

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

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A prophet's role was to pass along a message from God to his people. This could include an important message or sharing a vision about present and future events. What imagery is used in this passage to relay his message and what is it portraying?

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Looking at the passage, what are some of the things you think might be going on around the people at this time? How would this message have been 'good news' at that time?

New Testament Isaiah-sightings

Luke 4:14-30 (NIV)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

? What is the context in Jesus’ life when this occurs?

? What is the good news Jesus is bringing - how is he the ‘better Isaiah’, specifically in this passage?

? The good news we’ve waited for has come, in Jesus! How has this changed you?

? Think back to the news you waited for that you shared at the beginning - how does your current relationship with Jesus change the way you wait for news now?

For Discussion and Accountability

? Where else are you looking for ‘good news’ - in another person, thing, status, relationship? How can we come alongside you this week to remind you that Jesus is here as THE Good News?