Isaiah: Revealing the Rescuer
Seeing Jesus in Isaiah: God's Compassion

? Share about a time when someone extended great compassion to 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 55 (NIV)

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.
3 Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.
5 Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."
6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.
9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

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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 important messages do we see in this Isaiah passage?

New Testament Isaiah-sightings

Mark 1:40-45 (NIV)

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."
41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"
42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.43 Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: 44 "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." 45 Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.
4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

? Where do you see compassion in these New Testament passages?

? How were we "spiritually lepers" in need of healing? How does Jesus bring this healing to us?

? When is it difficult to think of God as compassionate?

For Discussion and Accountability

? Take some time to thank God for his great compassion for you.

? What motivates you to be compassionate? Or not compassionate? How can we pray for your heart to reflect this great compassion this week?

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