

Isaiah: Revealing the Rescuer

Seeing Jesus in Isaiah: Sharing the Good News

? Who first told you about the Good News in Jesus? What were some of your earliest impressions of this Good News?

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 49:1-7 (NIV)

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

³ He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."

⁵ And now the Lord says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—

⁶ he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

⁷ This is what the Lord says— the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel— to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers:

"Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

? 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?

Possible answers: The Lord has chosen and is using us to be a light, his salvation is for everyone, Kings will bow down, etc.

? Why would this be good news to the people?

Possible answers: Great news that the people are known, the tribes will be restored, salvation reaches to the ends of the earth, he is faithful, etc.

? Why is this still good news to the people today?

Possible answers: We're still looking for restoration, salvation can still reach to the ends of the earth, God is still faithful, etc.

New Testament Isaiah-sightings

Acts 13:1-3, 38-52 (NIV)

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

³⁸ "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: ⁴¹ "'Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.'"

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.

⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

"'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

? What is the Good News here?

Possible answers: Paul and Barnabus were called and sent; forgiveness through Jesus is preached, many people are hearing the Good News, the Good News is for all the ears, not just the Jewish people, the Holy Spirit continues to move and fill the disciples with joy, etc.

? Which aspects of this story do you think were most challenging for Paul & Barnabus? Most fulfilling?

Possible answers: Answers will vary

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

John 14:25-27 (NIV)

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

? What is our role in sharing the Good News with others? How are we doing this?

Possible answers: We are all called to be a light, to make disciples, to teach, to not be afraid - the Holy Spirit is with us. Praying for my neighbors, inviting my co-worker to church, supporting missionaries, etc.

? When is this most challenging and/or fulfilling as an individual? Small group? Church?

For Discussion and Accountability

? When are you most challenged to share your faith? How can we support you in this?

? When do you need us to share this Good News with you? How can we support you in this?