

Coach House Church **BEACONS**

TIED DOWN

27TH AUGUST 2020

There are no better words than those of the bible. When we are in need, be that a little need or great need, the answers will only ever be found in scripture. Let's read from the book of Isaiah, chapter 61. As I read, listen carefully for the words that apply to you and let them speak to you in a way that no other words can.

"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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 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 splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Isaiah 61:1-11 NIV

Past events, bad habits, vices, bad decisions, toxic relationships, weakness, misinformation, naivety, gullibility.

Sounds familiar ? Do you see yourself in any of those ?

Everyone at some point in our lives have been in a place where we were chained by some of the things mentioned above. We carried the burdens around hunching under the weight, and dragging our feet thinking it was the norm. Take a minute and think about where you are In your life; what has captivated you today, this week this year ? Is your bondage older that that ?

What I read at the start was written by the prophet Isaiah talking about Jesus over 700 years before He actuality lived on the earth. This was God's plan for Jesus, His mission. He came to set us free; in chapter 53 Isaiah says that Jesus came to bear our burdens so that we would not have to. Jesus himself read the passage from chapter 61 in the synagogue in his hometown Nazareth and told the people there that " today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing " . This is recorded by Luke in his Gospel chapter 4 kv22. By saying this Jesus was saying that he himself was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus was declaring that he was the person they had been waiting for, the one who would save them from their sins, the one they called Messiah. You see ,when God says something will happen, it does happen - Jesus fulfilled the plan that God had for him.

All I would like to remind you about in this beacon is that Jesus has done it all for us, we don't have to struggle to manage our burdens alone, we just have to hand them all to Him. So, when you don't know where you are going to get the money from to pay your bills; when you're in danger of losing your job and there's no one else to provide for your family, you're ill and feel alone and in pain, or whatever other circumstance you are facing , tell Him - he wants to know and He is The One who can do something about it.

We live in uncertain times. Our world is oppressed by fear at the moment - fear of getting ill ; fear of poverty and destitution. However , this doesn't have to be the way Christ's children have to live. The Lord has given us a solution which is to be

found in the cross. The cross on which Jesus died. By dying on the cross and rising again He showed that He has the power over death, fear, sickness, and social circumstances. Will you bring to the Cross all your worries, fears and burdens? We have an All powerful God who is not taken by surprise by what is happening in the world today; There is no point beyond which the Lord cannot intervene . As an old hymn says "He cares, he cares for you, and all your worrying won't help you make it through"

This is the reason why we should be glad and give Him the Glory and sing his praise ;He is worthy !

Lord thank you that you are the Everlasting and All powerful God. Lord , if you are for us who can be against us? Help us to understand this better.

You deserve all the glory because you had a plan and made a way for us to be with you.

Praise you Jesus

Amen



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