

THE GATHERING OF THE INLAND VALLEY

EXALTATION OF THE AFFLICTED-ISA. 61

Exaltation of the Afflicted

I. RECOGNIZE MESSIAH HAS COME AND HAS BEEN ANNOINTED

- A. Isaiah 61:1-2 is applied by Jesus to himself in Luke 4. Therefore we can undoubtedly conclude that these verses were fulfilled in Jesus and the prophet [Isaiah] was introducing the 'Servant of Jehovah' and not himself.
- B. Jesus has been anointed by the Spirit of the Lord. The anointing commanded by God for such offices as Prophet, Priest, and King demonstrates not only the call but sets apart and authorizes the person to execute the capacity of the office, while also confirming the gifts and graces are present to fulfill the demands of the office.[see also baptism of Jesus Matt 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11]

Luke 3:22 ...and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

- C. This is important because of the express of God to anoint in ceremony publically demonstrating His choice of the person being set apart. God's ways may be mysterious at times but He always does things out in the open, in the light for all to see. [*See Exodus 29,30,40; 1 Samuel 15,16; 1 Kings 1,19 for a few references to anointing in O.T.*]
- D. Jesus' anointing to the offices He fulfilled as Prophet, Priest, and King were not temporal as with others who were anointed to serve for a season, but His are **forever**, eternal in the heavens. We have no need to look for another or to fear that help has not arrived or is not enough to go around, that somehow it is limited. *For is with us and is an ever present help in time of trouble [from Psalm 26:1]*

John 3:34"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. [limitless supply]

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever [save completely] those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 5:6 just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

GQ:

II. THE LORD GIVES GIFTS and CREATES IDENTITY

Gifts

- A. Beauty for ashes.(v.3) The Lord is in the business of taking that which is dead and brings it back to life, where the new condition is better than the first.

Romans 6:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection

GQ: Name an area of life which was dead that Jesus has resurrected, and give an example of how this area is now better than new. What is life like now? Or what are you capable of that you were not before?

- B. Oil for gladness instead of mourning.(v.3) Jesus binds up the broken hearted by giving access to Himself through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit so we may know the joy of our salvation.

*1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
Eph 2:18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father*

- C. Mantle of praise.(v.3) We are to take up our mantle of praise if we are to keep a continual flow of the oil running down into our lives. The oil of God [His Spirit] is always available and always accessible however if we don't use the mantle of praise the world will come in like a flood and stop up our well, causing us to grow weary and disheartened. [*see Isaiah 43:1-13, Psalm 149, Psalm 8:2 for the weapon of praise*]

GQ: Share a time when the mantle of praise got you out of a hot mess?

GQ: What are some barriers you have in picking up and activating the mantle of praise?

GQ: What insights or observations can you make after reading Isaiah 42:10-13?

GQ: What's the relationship between our praise and the Lord's vengeance? See Psalm 149:5-8

Identity& Blessing

- D. We are called *Oaks of righteousness*.(v.3) The oak tree often sits as a majestic figure upon the landscape demonstrating its enduring qualities and providing for us an illustration for our life of faith. The oak tree continues to thrive in environments of drought, heat and earthquakes. A large oak can drink up to 50 gallons a day of water. In drought conditions the tree is not dependent on surface water but upon drawing up through its root system deep below the surface. So too with us we must learn to go deep in the Word of God our communion with Christ in order to continue to thrive in the midst of droughts, extreme heat, or unexpected quakes jolting through our lives. Roots develop overtime not overnight.
- E. We are called *a plating of the Lord*. (v.3) The Lord is a God of design and intentionality, He does not make mistakes. God may have planted in you in a place with adverse conditions but it is for His glory. He takes pleasure in you and will deliver you in order to demonstrate to the world His power and goodness. God is causing His grace to abound towards you that He may be glorified. [*See also Jer 17:7-8*]

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

GQ: What adverse conditions have you endured, and how has this been for His glory?

GQ: What adverse circumstances do I struggle with seeing how it is for His glory? What possibly could the Lord be up too?

GQ: What good work(s) do you feel God may be calling you into?

- F. We are called *priests of the Lord*. (v.6-7) As priests we are consecrated and set apart to offer spiritual sacrifices. A people now identified with the King of glory and have been made a part of His priesthood [His empire or organization] taken from death, lowly circumstances, afflictions and raised incorruptible, current benefactors of an exchange which empowers to be victorious, hence v.7. [eat the wealth of nations; joy with a double portion]

Rev 1:6 and He has made us to kings [or kingdom] and priests to His God and Father-- to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

GQ: Because of the great exchange [my sin for His life] how has this reshaped my thinking?

GQ: How has the great exchange made me see things different? Give an example

III. THE LORD MAKES US MONUMENTS OF GRACE FOR HIS GLORY

- A. The Lord is making us monuments of grace. (v.8-11) The picture here continues along the thread of *a planting of the Lord*. We have been planted in the Lords vineyard [garden] and the Father is the vine dresser [John 15]and we are to bear fruit for all to see as the Lord displays us as His handiwork to the world [cosmos].
- B. The Lord separates us [and our descendents] from the world and turns the eyes of people towards us as He extends to us recognition and special markings denoting His blessing. We literally become marked by God, special creatures with unique patterns standing out from the rest testifying of God's goodness. We must act accordingly as the world is indeed watching. The sad commentary of the

2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision[a mark] made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

- C. The Lord causes the increase and is the author of the fruit. (v.11). The Lord causes righteousness and praise to come forth out of our lives and displays these things to the nations. Righteousness and praise are so valuable to Him, He desires them to be set out for all to see.
- D. Just as natural children honor or shame their parents so do God's offspring. God delights and takes pleasure in His children.

Psalm 149:4 For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.

Proverb 29:15,17 The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

Psalm 35:27 Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, "The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant."

GQ: What's it like to think of yourself as a monument of God's grace?

GQ: How does this make you think about God?

GQ: How does this perspective shape how you view His children?

GQ: Does this perspective motivate me to treat others with God's love? Why or why not?