



September 30, 2018

“The Year of the Lord’s Favor”

Isaiah 61

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Isaiah 61 is a Messianic passage *about* Christ written hundreds of years *before* Christ that was fulfilled *by* Christ. In Luke 4, we read about Jesus at a synagogue in Nazareth, and how he read from Isaiah 61, and said that he was the fulfillment of that passage – declaring himself to be the Messiah. The verses Jesus read speak about the mission of his ministry and how he desires to bring healing, freedom, forgiveness and salvation to all who would believe and receive him. Pastor Gary connects Isaiah 61 and Luke 4 and shares how God takes broken, sinful people and brings beauty out of the ashes of our lives.

Historical Background

1. Pastor Gary said: “A Messianic Scripture is a passage that speaks about Christ, before Christ, but would end up being fulfilled by Christ. ... This is one of those rare Messianic passages, that if there’s any doubt whatsoever, we have the Bible as the best commentary on the Bible as to whether or not it’s a Messianic passage. We know it is, when we read in Luke chapter four during the ministry of Jesus, [that Jesus went to] the synagogue in Nazareth [and opened] the scroll of Isaiah to the passage that I just read, and [he] read most of what we just read together, [then he rolled] up the scroll and he [sat] down and he [said] to [everyone], ‘Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’ ”
2. Pastor Gary read [Luke 4:14-30](#) and made the following remarks: “Jesus spent most of his life in Nazareth, [the town in which he grew up], from about the age of three until he turned about thirty. When he turned 30, and his ministry began, he relocated to Capernaum, where he would spend the last three and a half years of his life. Capernaum would become his home base for his ministry. ... [At this time he was] a respected young rabbi, and it [was] customary that if there was a rabbi in your town, who [happened] to be visiting, that you let him teach in the

synagogue. Well, Jesus was no ordinary rabbi, he [was] the hometown boy. ... Jesus intentionally [opened the scroll to the place that he knew spoke about himself].”

3. We read in Luke’s Gospel that Jesus only read part of [Isaiah 61:1-2a](#).
 - a. [Luke 4:18-19](#) - *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*
4. The reason Jesus stopped reading [Isaiah 61:2](#), was because the first part of the verse was fulfilled then and there, but the second part was yet to occur.
 - a. [Isaiah 61:2](#) - *“... and the day of vengeance of our God...”*
5. Pastor Gary said: “[Jesus’ coming] happens in two phases. The first coming of Christ, which has already occurred, and the second coming of Christ, which is yet to occur. When Jesus first came his ministry and his mission was for salvation. It was a time of grace. Jesus said in [John 12:47b](#), ‘For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.’ The initial purpose of the first coming of Jesus was to usher in grace so that people might be saved. [The] second coming of Jesus [will] be the day of vengeance of our God. [Paul wrote] in [2 Thessalonians 1:7b-8](#), ‘This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.’ [In] between the first coming of Jesus, which is about salvation, and the second coming of Jesus, which is about judgment, there’s [a] gap [or a pause]. [We are living in the pause, which means we are living in the year of the Lord’s favor].”
6. When Jesus stated that he was the Messiah, their anger wasn’t immediately aroused.
 - a. [Luke 4:22](#) - *“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.”*
7. Jesus knew what they were thinking about him, and we read in [Luke 4:24](#) his statement about the fact that they would not accept him for who he really was: *“[No] prophet is accepted in his hometown.”*
8. The people became angry when Jesus gave two examples in which he commended Elijah and Elisha, who ministered God’s grace to Gentiles, while at the same time he was letting them know that he also came to minister God’s grace to Gentiles as well as Jews.
 - a. [Luke 4:25-27](#) - *“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. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 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.”

9. The people became enraged and they tried to kill Jesus by throwing him off a cliff!
 - a. **Luke 4:28-29** - *“All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 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 down the cliff.”*
10. Jesus escaped their murderous plot in a miraculous way!
 - a. **Luke 4:30** - *“But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.”*

Jesus' Ministry - Preach Good News To **The Poor**

11. **Isaiah 61:1** - *“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.”*
 - a. In this context, the word poor means spiritually poor.
12. A person can be materially rich, but spiritually poor, and a person can be materially poor, but spiritually wealthy.
 - a. **James 2:5** - *“Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?”*
 - b. **Ephesians 1:18** - *“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...”*
13. Pastor Gary said: “[When people have Jesus they have everything]. And it’s also true [that] a person can have everything by this world’s standard: [money, success, power, fame, notoriety, but if they] don’t have Jesus [they] have nothing. ... Jesus came to bring good news, and in God’s economy, the wealthiest people are those who know him. When we acknowledge our spiritual poverty and come humbly to him, we then gain an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade, kept in heaven for [us].”
 - a. **1 Peter 1:3-4** - *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – king in heaven for you...”*

- b. **Matthew 5:3** - “[Jesus said,] ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’ ”

Jesus’ Ministry - Bind Up The Brokenhearted

14. **Isaiah 61:1** - “... [The Father] has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...”
15. Pastor Gary said: “There are a lot of brokenhearted people in this world. [There are] people who have experienced tremendous loss and heartache. [There are] people who have been touched by tragedy and adversity. [There are] people dealing with the death of a loved one, medical issues, divorce, miscarriage, bankruptcy, you name it! There’s no shortage of pain in this world, but you will never find more compassion and more hope for the brokenhearted than with Jesus. There is no earthly remedy for the brokenhearted like there is with Jesus.”
- a. **Psalm 34:18** - “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
16. Pastor Gary shared the lyrics to the Third Day song *Cry Out to Jesus*.¹

Jesus’ Ministry - Proclaim Freedom For The Captives

17. **Isaiah 61:1** - “... [The Father] has sent me... to proclaim freedom for the captives...”
18. Pastor Gary said: “People can be in bondage to a lot of things [like] drugs or alcohol or pornography or anger or unforgiveness. You name it; we can be in bondage to it. ... By nature, we are all captive to sin... But the good news is that there is freedom in Christ. Not that we will never sin again when we come into relationship with him, but that we will never be mastered again by sin in the way that we were before we came to know Christ.”
- a. **Acts 8:23** - “[Peter said,] ‘For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.’ ”
- b. **Romans 7:15, 18, 24** - “[Paul said,] ‘I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ... I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!’ ”

Jesus’ Ministry - Release The Prisoners From Darkness

19. **Isaiah 61:1** - “... [The Father] has sent me... to release from darkness... the

¹ <https://www.lyrics.com/lyric/8448127/Third+Day/Cry+Out+to+Jesus>

prisoners.”

20. Pastor Gary said: “Before we come to know Christ the Bible describes the human condition as living in darkness. We are spiritually blind [and] we are prisoners of that darkness. But when you come to know Christ you step into the light. You begin to see things like you never saw before. You begin to understand things like you never understood before. ... [There] is new freedom in Christ, and there is forgiveness in Christ, and there is healing in Christ, and there is joy in Christ, and there is salvation in Christ.”
 - a. **Colossians 1:13-14** - *“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*
21. **Isaiah 61:3** - *“[He has sent me] to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness 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.”*
22. Pastor Gary said: “[Isaiah’s saying that] God takes spiritually bankrupt, brokenhearted lives, that are captive to sin and spiritually blind, and he brings *‘beauty out of ashes,’* and he brings praise out of despair and he brings gladness out of our mourning, and then he makes us righteous through [Jesus]. And then he plants us like an oak tree for the display of his splendor.”

Discussion Questions

1. Read **Isaiah 61:1-3** and **Luke 14-30** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s remarks about **Luke 4:14-30**. (See #2 through #4 above)
3. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s remarks about the first and second coming of Jesus, and why Jesus did not read all of **Isaiah 61:2**. (See #5 above)
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s statement about Jesus’ ministry to the spiritually poor. (See #11 through #13 above)
 - a. Read and discuss **James 2:5**, **Ephesians 1:18**, and **1 Peter 1:3-4**.
5. How has the Lord made you spiritually wealthy as you have grown in your relationship with him?

6. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about Jesus' ministry to the brokenhearted. (See #14 and #15 above)
7. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about Jesus' ministry to those who are held captive in sin. (See #17 and #18 above)
 - a. Read and discuss [Romans 7:15, 18, 24](#).
 - b. How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to live in such a way that you are following and obeying the will and ways of God?
8. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's statement about Jesus' ministry to those who are prisoners. (See #19 through #22 above)
 - a. Read and discuss [Colossians 1:13-14](#).
 - b. Allow the people in your group to share their experience about the moment the Lord rescued them from "*the dominion of darkness*."
9. Ask someone in your group to read [Psalm 34:18](#) and the lyrics to the Third Day song *Cry Out to Jesus* (or play the song on a cell phone or CD player) and close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).