



Part 6: Hope for Rescue and Restoration
God's promise to Rescue and Restore through Jesus
Isaiah 61:1-3

God lays out how he will rescue and restore his people. The Israelites waited for nearly 600 years until Jesus reads it:

**“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on my,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners.”**
Isaiah 61:1

1. Jesus offers us hope by intentionally stepping into our brokenness to rescue us!

Jesus brings comfort, healing, freedom, guidance to those who are hurting, broken, slaves, and wanderers,

How do you think the Israelites felt after being conquered and exiled by foreign nations used by God? Without home or comfort. They return with a promise of restoration that has not been answered now for many generations! The feeling that God is silent and distant, and hope far away.

As God offers hope to the Israelites he offers hope to us. We live in a world disordered by sin. Our pride, anger, lust, jealousy, greed etc. that hurts ourselves and others, as others hurt us too.

-Have you ever felt trapped with no way out?

-Tried so hard to fix a friendship or relationship with no success?

-Betrayed by someone you trust?

-Tried so hard to change something about yourself, but continuing to come up short?

-Entrapped?

-Without hope? Purpose?

Jesus willingly offers to step into our brokenness, the deepest parts of our beings to release us from our addictions, comfort our grief, strength to let go! **To release us into a breath of new life marked by his love.**

God is after our hearts, because morality and actions, flow from the heart. He promises to enter and be with us now.

What does it look like to create space and invite Jesus in deeper?

2. Jesus brings hope to the broken, and responds to those who cry out to Him!

3.

**“To proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor
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.”
Isaiah 61:2-3a**

God answers those who cry out to him!

-We see this earlier in verse 1: “Proclaim good news to the poor.”

-Hebrew word for Poor means “afflicted, meek, humble.”

Quote: “[Jesus] had not come to announce good news to those who were comfortable and in control, but to those who were in deep trouble.” – John Oswalt

Oswalt, John. *New International Commentary on the Old Testament Isaiah Ch. 40-66*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B Eerdmans Publishing, page 565.

Have you ever tried to help someone who needed help, but did not recognize their need or refuse the assistance? Have we ever been in a position to refuse help? Refused asking for Help?

Jesus offers himself to use, willingly stepping into our brokenness, but does not force himself. He invites us to invite him.

A heart posture of longing, asking, etc. is required.

Here is our hope: **That we are not stuck in brokenness forever. Jesus wants to step into our brokenness to rescue and restore us! He hears the cries of those who cry out to him!**

This is often easier said than done:

Resistance to Inviting Jesus deeper into our lives? (2 examples)

a. Business

We live busy lives pursuing comfortability and self-sufficiency. It can be very uncomfortable to acknowledge the muck of sin in our lives, let alone engage with it. When we do, we often feel the pressure of not having enough time. It is like having a broken bone and then calling a doctor on the phone to heal it. Similarly, Jesus wants to enter into the deepest parts of our being, and this requires space and time.

How do we?

One way: Spiritual Practices

-Spiritual practices make create space to be with God and to be transformed by him. (Practices can be found on the Greenwood's website under practices, or in the practicing the way of Jesus guide)

b. Need to be clean prior to inviting Jesus in

Have you ever invited company over, so you need to clean your house (because it is polite, caring, welcoming, etc., or maybe if we are honest we want to be accepted, put on the appearance of cleanliness or put togetherness). And we end up waiting till the last minute as we normally do and frantically clean up the main areas of the house.

Similarly

We feel like we need to clean the rooms of our heart before inviting Jesus in.

- I must have my act together before...
- I want to make him proud of me before...
- I must be a good "effective" Christian before...

Jesus loves you. He does not recoil at the messy room, or closet covered in cobwebs, but rather excited to be with you, and offers to help clean together with you.

God is after our hearts, to rescue and restore us. This comes before reflecting God's glory to the world (Isaiah 61:3b).

Jesus wants to rescue and restore us by stepping into our brokenness with us.

When Jesus is quoting and claiming ownership of this prophecy (Luke 4:18-19) he stops at “to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,” without continuing on to “the day of vengeance of our God” (Isaiah 61:2).

Jesus announces a time of grace, restoration, and invitation! (year of the LORD’s favor)

We live in this time of now and not yet, a time of becoming. Rescue and Restoration is not fully complete and will not be until the day of vengeance. A day when sin and death will be judged and fully dealt with. A day of great rejoicing, because we will no longer be under its power, experiencing its influence in our lives and in others.

God offers us hope in the time of waiting. Hope that there will be full restoration, but also in that Jesus willingly steps into our brokenness now.

Jesus offers us hope by intentionally stepping into our brokenness to rescue and restore us!

Discussion Questions: (Take some deep breaths and quiet the heart and mind, inviting the Holy Spirit)

1. Read Luke 4:14-30: What stands out to you? What could have been some of the Jew’s expectations of the coming Messiah? Are there any expectations in your life of who Jesus is, and what he offers?
2. Has there been a time/season in your life where you have felt God present? Felt absent? What was that like?
3. What things are heavy on your heart, that you need Jesus to step into?
4. How do you feel about Jesus being invited into every room of your heart? Are there any rooms that are cut off or restricted?
5. Ask the Holy Spirit if there are any internal resistances to inviting Jesus in, or handing something to him (an emotion, idea, desire, stress)?
6. Which barrier do you see in your own walk with Jesus: Pressure to Clean before, Business of life? Is there an option C: a different barrier?
7. Where have you experienced hope and healing in your own journey with God? Is there someone who could be encouraged by your story?
8. As Jesus steps into our brokenness, he often invites us into something new. Do you sense Him inviting you into a new space with Him? (Prayer, Sabbath, Conversation with a Friend, Spouse, Family Member, Scripture, Fasting, journaling, a bike ride, etc.)