



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

December 13th, 2020: Advent 3 Coming Soon: How Shall I Meet Him?

Text: Isaiah 61:1-11

¹ 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, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ 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 splendor. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

1. If ever a year felt like a doomy, gloomy funeral, it's been 2020. Make a list of things that have left you feeling poor, afflicted, brokenhearted, captive, and in darkness?
2. Jesus comes to fulfill our every need! He has truly brought good news for the poor and afflicted, healing for the broken-hearted, freedom for the captives, and light for those who sit in darkness. How can you open the eyes of your heart to see each of these cures in your life?

3. Look up Leviticus 25:1-13. What does it mean that the Servant of the Lord has been sent to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (the year of Jubilee)? What does this mean about the year 2020?
4. The year of the Lord's favor is also the same time as the day of vengeance of our God. Who will experience which?
5. God's Old Testament people had been captured because of their unfaithfulness and sent off to captivity in Babylon. What was God's purpose in allowing them to face consequences in their earthly life?
6. Jesus is changing this funeral into a wedding! The Servant of the Lord bestows on you a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of the spirit of despair. How can you remember these things when the mourning and despair are starting to creep back in?
7. The metaphor of the unfaithful harlot turned into the radiant bride of Christ is perhaps the most striking metaphor in all of Scripture. What does verse 10 mean for each and every believer in Christ? See Christian Worship hymn 376.
8. We live in a culture of weddings that are all about the bride. For what reasons is this wedding all about the groom?