



Pastor Doug Wilson · BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
November 10, 2024 · Sixth in a series of messages on our calling to “REBUILD. RESTORE. RENEW.”

ISAIAH 61:1-11 (TNIV)

<sup>1</sup> 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,

<sup>2</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR  
and the day of vengeance of our God,

to comfort all who MOURN,

<sup>3</sup> 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 MIGHTY OAKS,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.**

<sup>4</sup> They will **REBUILD** the ancient ruins  
and **RESTORE** the places long devastated;  
they will **RENEW** the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

### 1. Who is the focus on? v. 1

- a. The **Sovereign Lord**.
- b. The **Spirit of the Sovereign Lord**.
- c. **Me!** “The **Servant of the Lord**.” Isaiah 11:1-9 [42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12]

### 2. What is the Servant’s relationship to the Sovereign Lord?

- a. His Spirit is **on me**. Numbers 11:29; Isaiah 44:3; Joel 2:28; Matthew 12:18
- b. He has **anointed me**. 1 Samuel 16; Psalm 45:7/Hebrews 1:9
- c. He has **sent me**. Isaiah 6:8; John 20:21-22

### 3. Who has He SENT us to?

- a. The **poor**. [ani/anawim]
- b. The **broken-hearted**.
- c. The **captives**.
- d. The **prisoners**.
- e. Those who **mourn**.
- f. Those who **grieve**.
  - People covered in **ashes**.
  - People in **mourning**.
  - People burdened with “a spirit of **despair**.”

### 4. What does He want us to DO for them?

- a. offer **GOOD NEWS** to the poor.
- b. **BIND UP** the brokenhearted.
- c. proclaim **FREEDOM** for the captives.
- d. **RELEASE** from darkness for the prisoners.
- e. proclaim the YEAR of the LORD’S FAVOR...  
and the DAY of **VENGEANCE** of our God.
- f. **COMFORT** all who mourn. (“Y.B.H.?”)

### 5. WHY does He want us to do that for them? Transformation!

- a. **PROVIDE** for those who grieve...to **GIVE** people who mourn:
  - a crown of **BEAUTY** instead of ashes,
  - the oil of **JOY** instead of mourning,
  - a garment of **PRAISE** instead of a spirit of despair.
- b. to transform BROKEN people into **WHOLE** people. (3c, “MIGHTY OAKS”)
- c. to allow SHATTERED people to **REBUILD, RESTORE, RENEW**. (v. 4)

### a. This is the **FATHER'S** mission!

“YAHWEH sends the messenger to bind up [the wounds of] the broken hearted. [Old Testament scholar] Shalom Paul observes that in sending the messenger to do this work YAHWEH asks him ‘to fulfil a duty that is usually performed by the Deity Himself’ (see Pss. 147:3; 51:19; 34:19). In 30:26, YAHWEH binds up the wounds of His shattered people, wounds that 1:6 describes as gaping and terrible.”

PAUL R. HOUSE, *Isaiah: A Mentor Commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 637).

PSALM 147:3 (NIV)

**He heals the BROKENHEARTED  
and binds up their wounds.**

PSALM 34:18 (NIV)

**The Lord is close to the BROKENHEARTED  
and saves those who are CRUSHED IN SPIRIT.**

### b. This is **JESUS'** mission!

LUKE 4:14-22 (TNIV)

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, **as was his custom**. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me,  
because he has anointed Me  
to proclaim good news to the POOR.

He has sent Me

to proclaim freedom for the PRISONERS  
and recovery of sight for the BLIND,  
to set the OPPRESSED free,

<sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR.”

### c. This is **OUR** mission!

“He has called us to be HIS TRANSFORMED PEOPLE engaged in TRANSFORMING THE WORLD, making it more pleasing to him, even though we do it as broken vessels, ‘jars of clay,’ with all our cracks and flaws on display. ‘But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us’ (2 Cor. 4:7).”

RICHARD STEARNS, *Lead Like It Matters to God: Values-Driven Leadership in a Success-Driven World* (2021, IVP)

**Why does God care so deeply to send someone to  
“bind up” or bandage the wounds of His children...  
to “bring good news to the poor” & broken?**

### a. Because the **FATHER** Himself experiences \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_!

GENESIS 6:5-8 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently & totally evil. <sup>6</sup> So the Lord was SORRY he had ever made them & put them on the earth. **IT BROKE HIS HEART.** [NRSV: “it GRIEVED him to his heart.”]

<sup>7</sup> And the Lord said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. **I am SORRY I ever made them.**” <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor with the Lord.

### b. Because the **SERVANT-SON** Himself is “a man of \_\_\_\_\_” — and “familiar with \_\_\_\_\_”!

ISAIAH 53:3 (NLT)

“He was despised and rejected—  
**a man of sorrows,  
acquainted with deepest grief.**”

“He was despised and shunned by others, a man of sorrows **WHO WAS NO STRANGER TO SUFFERING**. We loathed him and regarded him as of no account, as one from whom men avert their gaze.” (NCB)

“The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was **looked down on and passed over,  
A MAN WHO SUFFERED, WHO KNEW PAIN FIRSTHAND.**” (MSG)

HEBREWS 2:18; 4:15 (NIV)

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted,  
he is able to help those who are being tempted.  
For we do not have a high priest who is **UNABLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES**,  
but we have one who has been tempted in every way, **just as we are**—yet he did not sin.

### c. Because the **SPIRIT** Himself can be “\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_”!

EPHESIANS 4:30 (NIV)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,  
with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

“DO NOT MAKE THE HOLY SPIRIT SAD.

The Spirit is God's proof that you belong to him.  
God gave you the Spirit to show that God will make you free when the time comes.” (ICB)

“And **DO NOT BRING SORROW** to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.  
Remember, he has identified you as his own,  
guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.” (NLT)

“DON'T GRIEVE GOD.

DON'T BREAK HIS HEART.

His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you,  
is the most intimate part of your life,  
making you fit for himself.

Don't take such a gift for granted.” (MSG)