

Isaiah 61 (*Thursday 28th November*)

The fruit of the anointed conqueror's triumph over evil (59:15b-21; 63:1-3) is described in chapters 60-62, which speak of the fulfilment of God's purposes through his servant-king.

Read verses 1-3

1. What different elements of the speaker's mission do these verses identify?
2. Luke 4:16-21 establishes that this is a portrait of Christ. How much of these verses are fulfilled in Nazareth, how much at Calvary, and how much still awaits fulfilment?

Read verses 4-7

3. Here are more promises of what the conqueror's work will achieve. What does the LORD say he will do for his people? How much of this do we experience now? And what are we still waiting for?

Read verses 8,9

4. We have already seen the idea of 'covenant' in Isaiah (see, for example, Isaiah 55:3). How do 55:3 and 61:8,9 respectively echo the promises made to David (2 Samuel 7) and to Abraham (Genesis 12)?

Read verses 10,11

5. The voice here is most likely that of Isaiah speaking on behalf of the people of God. How does the picture of a wedding help us appreciate what the LORD has done for us?
6. In v 11 what does the garden imagery suggest about the way that the fruit of righteousness is to be at work in our lives?

For praise and prayer

- Give thanks for Jesus, the ultimate preacher of good news (Luke 4)
- Give thanks for the LORD's faithfulness to his promises
- Pray for Christ Church Blackburn to be an attractive visual aid of the gospel
- Pray for opportunities to invite friends and family to events over the next weeks