

The anointed Christ

ODCC 31/05/09 (x.pages)

Text: Isaiah 61:1-3 & Luke 4:14-21

Introduction

1. This passage of scripture tells the Jews who are in captivity that their captivity would end and God would bring great blessing on them.
 - a. However, Christ also shows us that this prophecy is about His ministry to His church, and that we His people can read it knowing that it applies to us as well.
 - b. I believe that God has laid this message on me today because there are some here who need to hear it – and I also need it.

Christ is the “Balm of Gilead”

1. Jeremiah asks the question, “*Is there no balm in Gilead?*” Gilead was well-known as a region where plants grew from which could be extracted ointment with healing properties (Jer 8:22).
 - a. Jesus is often referred to as “the Balm of Gilead” because He brings certain healing.
 - b. Compare: “*For you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall*” (Mal 4:2).
 - c. There is balm in Gilead. Christ is still anointed and present to bring healing to our lives.
2. “*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,*” said Jesus quoting from this verse.
 - a. In the OT the Hebrew word for Spirit is *ruwach* which means “breath”. Now the breath of God is not like the breath of men. Men breathe in and their lungs draw out about 25% of the oxygen and replace it with about 5% carbon dioxide. So if you draw in a breath and breath it into a packet, you could breathe that air in again another 3 times before it was depleted of life-sustaining oxygen.
 - b. God does not need oxygen as He is Spirit. His breath is life (basic meaning). Genesis tells us, “*the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being*” (2:7).
 - c. The “life force” of God was upon Christ – the Gk word means “over” like a covering, like a hat but not like a hat – an overshadowing presence, a directing influence, a voice of instruction, a passion to fulfil the will of God, a power to release, to heal, to bind the wound of the broken-heart, to bring light to blind (dead) eyes.
3. “*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because he has anointed me...*”. Christ has been anointed by God – that is, **set apart** specifically for this ministry. And Christ is **the only one** who has this ministry.
 - a. If a Believer preaches the gospel and people believe and follow the Lord, it is because Jesus is present in the life of that Believer.
 - b. If a Christian prays for someone who is sick and they are healed, the Christian has no power to heal but Jesus in that Christian has power.
 - c. If you read the Bible and the words you read bring comfort and healing to your life, the words have power because Jesus is the Word (John 1:1). The heart of God, the mind of God, and the expression of God are manifested in Christ. And God’s word is not sounds on ears but is life and light and healing and power and peace, etc. No word returns to God void and no word is wasted.

Turns negatives into positives

1. We can’t look at all in detail but look at what Christ is anointed to do:
 - a. To bring good news to the poor – they are not just poor, the word means they are beggars they have nothing and are destitute in every way and without hope.
 - b. To heal the broken-hearted – the picture is wrapping a broken bone so that it has a chance of setting bringing restoration and wholeness.
 - c. To break the bonds (chains) of captives and open their prison doors and to lead them into freedom.

- d. To give beauty for ashes. When a person went about mourning they threw ash upon their heads and even sat on the ash heap so that they became dirty and unkempt but Christ cleanses them and takes away the pain and they become beautiful because of His presence.
- e. He gives the oil of joy for mourning. The oil speaks of an anointing of the Holy Spirit which results in joy. Both the Hebrew and Gk words for joy indicate a loud and vocal expression of joy with much laughing.
- f. And He gives the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Heb = “darkish”) so that the Lord brings light like the morning sun that whose light can be seen before the sun can be seen and the darkness is dispelled and the first rays of the sun show things that cannot be ordinarily seen, like the dew shining on the grass and the gossamer silk of the spider’s web and the tiniest of tiny flying insects almost looking as if they’re suspended. He is the light and as the darkness dissipates the joy of His presence fills us like the like the warming sweetness of wine so that our spirit is lifted and there comes a shouting from joy.

The reality of Christ’s presence

1. Sometimes we need to talk to ourselves. *“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.”* (Psalm 43:5)
 - a. Too often we **feel down** because we **talk ourselves down!** And there are times when we need to reverse our negative attitude by putting our hope and trust in the Lord. Romans tells us that we ought to be *transformed by the renewing of (y)our mind* (v2).
 - b. There have been times in my life when I’ve had to apply the principal of renewing my thinking to bring about a change in my attitude. And a changed attitude has brought about a change in relationships, in attitudes, in passion, in cooperation, etc.
 - c. But a changed mind without the presence of the Lord is really only the power of positive thinking.
2. The text I’ve just quoted says, *Hope in God!*” The positives that I affirm must have their cause in God.
 - a. Christ is the anointed one. His ministry as recorded 2000 years ago was not for that time only and for those people alone.
 - b. He still saves from the uttermost to the uttermost; He still heals the broken-hearted; He still sets the captives free; He still brings sight to the blind; He still replaces heaviness with a garment of praise.
 - c. How? How can I receive? On several occasions people sought Jesus out because they had terrible needs. They travelled great distances. “Come,” said one man. “My daughter is at death’s door.”
3. Here today, Christ is here – the Alpha & Omega; the same yesterday, today and forever.
 - a. Even as He stood in that synagogue 2000 years ago, declaring the fulfilment of that ancient prophecy, He stand here today declaring that The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me...
 - b. If you believe, Christ can minister to you with the anointing that is from God and change negatives into positives in your life.