

TUESDAY

**Good news for the poor
(v1-3)**

Isaiah 61:1-11

JOY

FROM THE ASHES

5-11 AUGUST 2023



Isaiah in the temple (6:5)

Woe is me

I am undone

Unclean lips

I live among people of unclean lips



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Context

- God's concern for the returning exiles
- The compassion of Christ for the 'poor' in his day: freedom, recovery, favour
- The love of God for those who are broken today



Proclamation

There is a proclamation of the good news for the poor

The Spirit's analysis of human brokenness

- The broken-hearted
- Captives
- The blind
- Those who mourn



The broken-hearted

= the sudden, unexpected & unwanted loss of something or someone you love

Acute pain, sorrow & sadness that can have physical symptoms.

Israel and the temple

Broken relationships



Captives

= those who are not free to do what they want to, or ought to, before God

The exiles

Romans 7:21-23 the internal struggle with the flesh can make us a prisoner



Attachments

Things that we love more than God (idols)

“Something or someone that holds my affection, takes up my time and requires my money, and which I feel I cannot live without.”



Addictions

= things that have power over us, even though we don't want it

“Any compulsive habitual behaviour that eclipses our concern for God and compromises our freedom.”

Gerald May

Gambling, drinking, drugs, pornography, sexual experiences



Prisoners (blind)

Spiritual blindness – the inability to understand the things of God

Isaiah 6:9-10 / Matt 13:11-17
(parable of the sower)

We have a secular mindset, even in church; brainwashed by the media



Mourners

Grief = the sadness over the loss of something or someone, common to all humanity & universal.

How Israel felt at the loss of the Temple & homeland (Ps 42, 137).

Bereavement – death as separation. Bereft = cut-off.
The cost of loving.



Grief

Grief is a natural emotion & best expressed

The grief journey is unique, a process, & it takes time

Not all grief is the same

Not about 'getting over'

Getting 'stuck' in grief



Sorrow over sin

*Grief asks me to allow
the sins of the world
– my own included –
to pierce my heart
and make me shed tears,
many tears for them.*

Henri Nouwen



Pain

What they all have in common –
hurt, struggle, despair, sorrow

- Deny (keep busy)
- Numb (take the pain away)
- Hide it (brave face)

It takes courage to own it and
face it, and to ask for help



There is Good News!

Welcome

Understanding

Healing, freedom, recovery,
comfort, favour

Hope





Kintsugi – the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold in the belief that by embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create a stronger, more beautiful piece of art.

Invitation – Isaiah 55:1

Come, all who are thirsty, come
to the waters;

and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat.

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without
cost.



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