

**SRMBC Family Bible Study**  
**Worship – Discovering What Scripture Says**  
February 13, 2019  
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**Lesson 5: Plantings of Praise      Isaiah 61:1 - 11**

Our praise and worship are not meant to be limited to us, contained within the walls of our worshiping space. Instead God wants our praise to affect others and spread—throughout our neighborhoods and even the world.

God compares his worshipers to a strong and beautiful stand of trees that show off his nutrient-rich soil (Isa. 61:3,11), his expert gardening skills and his status as a master arborist. God has a plan for causing praise to multiply and we are an integral part.

**Group Discussion.** Which more accurately describes how you see yourself today: an “[oak] of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor” (Isaiah 61:3) or “an oak with fading leaves, like a garden without water” (Isaiah 1:30)?

The Lion King (“Remember Who You Are”)

In Africa, a pride of lions King Mufasa's Sarabi's and their newborn son Simba rule from Pride Rock. Scar, King Mufasa's brother, plots to murder Mufasa and Simba, but Simba escapes. Now an Adult, He encounters Rafiki, who tells him that Mufasa's spirit lives on in Simba. Simba is visited by the ghost of Mufasa in the night sky, who tells him he must take his rightful place as king.

**Questions**

Why did Simba need his Father's reminder of who he was/is in the kingdom?

What keeps some believers from realizing who they are in Christ?

How does knowing who are help us in offering worship to God?

**Read Isaiah 61:1 – 11**

1. There are two distinct voices in this passage—the anointed servant (or the prophet) and the Lord who sends the servant. How would you summarize in a sentence the heart of what each one says? (Try saying it as if you were the person speaking).

Scripture 1	Summary
<b>The Voice Of The Servant (Vv. 1 – 7; 10 – 11)</b>	I have power and authority from the Lord to bring real hope and healing for the poor, the broken, and anyone who is bound or hurting and to healing and make a strong witness to the world and give them a reason to praise the goodness of the Lord.
Scripture 2	Summary
<b>The Voice of the Lord (vv. 8 – 9)</b>	I, the Lord see the evil and injustice and I make a solemn promise that I will put an end to it and make things right. This promised blessing will extend your children and your children's children and will be acknowledged by the world.

2. What promises does the Lord's servant (and then the Lord) make to those whom he lifts up, heals, sets free and comforts?

### **The Lord's Servant's Promises**

- He promises to bring good news of blessing and judgement of the oppressors of God's people
- He promises to trade our sorrow and pain for His Joy
- He promises us to feed, plant and be a source of praise glory (trophies)
- Whatever was ruined in our lives He will empower us to restore and rebuild.
- Our help will come from areas and people that we cannot currently see or are aware of.
- He shall give us a new name and calling - a place of honor that will amaze those around us.
- The Lord promises to provide greater blessing for us in future – double for our trouble.
- Salvation and joy. Sins forgiven and new life in God (Christ)

### **The Lord's Promises**

- The Lord will lead them to be right and do right
  - The Lord will make a promise to His people that can never be broken
  - This promise is perpetual to all people for generations to come.
  - His blessings will be so evident that the Lord is One giving the favor.
3. He will provide the care and strength and blessings that provide the reasons to praise Him. How does what the servant brings these suffering people transform them into "oaks/Trees of righteousness," and what does this title imply (v. 3)?

### **Roots/Grounds us in:**

The truth that we are accepted/forgiven in the Lord

The truth our sadness, our mourning over sin will be replaced with the joy our salvation

The truth that we are not only forgiven but also exalted to the highest place as kings and priests of the Lord.

### **Oak/Trees of Righteousness**

Trees are the planting not of ourselves but by the Lord

Oak trees are sturdy – strong and unmovable

Trees nurture, provides beauty and bring glory to Lord

Trees receive nourishment from the soil/Lord;

The word righteousness in Hebrew means rightness or justice

We have an enduring relationship with the Lord (v. 8), who enables us to remain righteous.

In the immediate context, Isaiah was predicting the return of Israel from exile. This deliverance foreshadowed God's greater rescue of people from our captivity to sin and death through Christ.

4. When have you seen someone Jesus healed, provided for or set free become a "display of his splendor" to others?

In 1977, heavyweight boxer **George Foreman** nearly died as the result of a 12-round fight against the great Jimmy Young. After praying to God for a second chance, Foreman committed to becoming a born-again Christian. Today, Foreman ministers at his own church, has founded a youth center.

**Franklin Graham** frequently engages in Christian revival tours and political commentary. He is currently president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization. Graham became a "committed Christian"

5. How does the Lord want his people to be seen by the rest of the world (vv. 8-9)?

- God wants the world to see us as a blessed people – because of His great love for us.
- Like an oak tree that stands despite storms, God wants the world to see us as people who have Godly joy no matter what's going on.
- As those with this genuine hope we will be attractive and capture the attention of a hopeless world.

We will be called "blessed" not necessarily because our lives are struggle- and pain-free but because of how we respond to suffering—because we have a relationship with a God who cares.

6. Why is being "arrayed in a robe of righteousness" cause for such jubilant praise (v. 10)?

- At the center of Christian worship is what Jesus did for us, something we could never have done for ourselves.
- God has dressed us —"as a bridegroom . . . and as a bride." - Holy and acceptable to Him in the Beloved (Jesus Christ).
- God's commitment to us is like that promised in a marriage. This is definitely cause for celebration.

7. From what you see in this passage, what do you think is the relationship between righteousness and praise?

- God is the rich soil from which any act of righteousness or praise will ever grow
- As God cares for us and brings us into relationship with him, we praise him for who he is and what he has done for us (vs.10).
- As His "trees of righteousness," we share with others what God has given to us (justice, righteousness, love and mercy) more praise will be the result.

8. What clothes from your old life that you need to get rid of? How might emphasizing the garments of salvation and praise encourage you to get rid of them?

- Anger – Getting angry when things or people don't go my way.
- Pride/Selfishness – Thinking more of myself and less about others (I did it my way!).
- Depression – A low view of myself, based on other's words or my own shortcomings.
- Fear – Letting my view of the challenges of life keep from moving forward.

See these old clothes for what they are: pants with too-tight waistlines, flagrant highwaters, a shirt with a huge stain. What do your old clothes look, feel and smell like? Ask God to take them to the trash!

*Ask God to rid you of your old clothes and increase your comfort wearing his garments of salvation and praise. Pray also about your response to the final question.*

### *Keys For Living*



When we worship God/Jesus, we offer our praise, unrighteousness and mourning and receive His righteousness, salvation and joy.



As we consistently seek God in praise and worship we testify to the world of the awesome greatness of the Lord.



Praise and worship that puts our focus on Jesus, makes us strong steadfast and immovable “oaks of righteousness – planted on the **Solid Rock** of His Word!