



WHEN WILL SALVATION COME?

ADVENT 3 - JOY

Warm up question:

- When you are having a rough/bad day, is there a happy memory that you like to think about?

Read Isaiah 61:1-11

1. What is the context of this passage? Is it set in a positive section of Isaiah or a negative section?
2. In verse 1 the promised Messiah speaks of the Spirit resting on him. Was it normal for the Spirit to rest on people in the Old Testament? What is special about this situation?
3. What does the phrase “*the Lord has anointed me*” mean?
4. In verse 2 we find that the Messiah will proclaim both the year of God’s favour, and the day of God’s vengeance. Why would the Messiah need to proclaim both of these things?
5. Look at verses 1-3 and list all of the other things that the Messiah has been anointed to do. Why would these things be important to the people of Israel?
6. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus is in the Synagogue and reads from this passage. Why is this significant?
7. From verse 4 onwards, the Messiah turns his focus towards the people. What is significant about verse 6? Were all the people priests in the Old Testament?
8. Using just 1 word, how would you summarise verses 4-7?
9. In verse 8, what does the Lord love and what does he hate? Why is this important?
10. Isaiah concludes the chapter in verses 10-11 with a song of praise. Why is Isaiah praising God?

Read Psalm 126

11. How does Psalm 126 respond to what you have just read in Isaiah 61?
12. Why is it important to remember what God has done for us in the past?
13. Is there any joy to be found for us in Isaiah 61 and Psalm 126?

Rubber hits the road:

- Take some time to think back on the moments in your life when God showed himself to be faithful.
- As you wait for God to answer your current prayers, how do these memories shape the way you wait?

PRAYER

Faithful God, we rejoice because you are the Good News. We thank you that you continue to heal, set free, provide for, crown, and bless. We thank you that all of your promises are true. Jesus, we wait expectantly for you to come again and make all things new and right. We ask that as we wait, that you would help us to find joy in both our relationship with you, and in the ways that you are working in our lives. In your mighty name Jesus, Amen.

