

The Song of the Joyful Servant

Isaiah's Servant Songs

Isaiah 61:1-11

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42:1-13 *The Elect Servant*

49:1-13 *The Faithful Servant*

50:4-11 *The Learned Servant*

52:13-53:12 *The Suffering Servant*

61:1-11 *The Joyful Servant*

I. We Become Like What We Worship (Ps 115:4-8)

As human beings *we become like what we worship* (cf. Ps 115:8; 2 Cor 3:18). While those who worship *idols* become increasingly *shameful* like them, those who worship God become increasingly *glorious* like Him. Hence, right worship fosters a distinct culture:

- **Chosen Servant** – God's chosen servants will not seek admiration and approval from _____ but will revel in God's sovereign love and worship Him alone.
- **Faithful Servant** – God's faithful servants will not waver in unbelief and doubt when criticized or discouraged but will walk in _____, trusting God's promises to us.
- **Learned Servant** – God's learned servants will not blindly follow cultural trends and fashions but will commit themselves boldly to know and follow _____ wisdom.
- **Sacrificial Servant** – God's sacrificial servants will not live their lives demanding from others but _____ for them while trusting God to reward them in His time.

Isaiah 61:1–11 – The Song of the Joyful Servant

¹*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."* ⁴*And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. ⁶But you shall be named the priests of the LORD, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast. ⁷Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸"For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them an everlasting covenant. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed."* ¹⁰*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

II. The Song of the Joyful Servant

A. The Servant at the Center (1 cf. Lk 4:16-22)

B. The Culture the Servant Produces

1. A Community of Mercy, Grace, and Righteousness (vv. 1-3)
2. A Community of Restoration and Reconciliation (v. 4-7)
3. A Community of Generational Faithfulness (vv. 8-9)
4. A Community of Joy (vv. 10-11)

III. The Call to be Joyful Servants

A. The Serious Duty of Joy

We become like what we worship. Hence, if we worship the Joyful Servant then what shall we become? _____ Servants. *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”* (Phil 4:4) *“Rejoice always”* (1 Thes 5:16). Even when we are *“sorrowful, yet [we are] always rejoicing”* (2 Cor 6:10). Joy is to be the warp and woof of our lives. It is the fountain from which cultural change flows; it promotes good tidings, healing, liberty, comfort, beauty, joy, praise, righteousness, feasting, rebuilding, reconciliation, boasting in others’ successes, honesty, and generational faithfulness. Joy is serious business.

B. The Light of the World (cf. Isaiah 60; Mt 5:14-16)

Our calling as Christians is to shine in our community – to incarnate a society that is in self-conscious subjection to the Lordship of Christ. Jesus taught us:

¹⁴*“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Jesus derived this imagery from Isaiah 60:

¹*Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. ³The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising... ⁵Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. ⁶The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD... ¹⁴Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*

Isaiah insists that when the Messiah arrived to save His people, He would exalt Zion. So, in the new covenant, who is Zion? The _____! *You are the light of the world!*

²²*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (Heb 12:22-24)*

C. The Centrality of the Church (cf. Is 62:1-7; Ps 137)

Isaiah responds to the Song of the Joyful Servant by praying for Zion. He makes _____ the center of his affections and prayers:

¹*For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns. ²The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. ³You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God.*

If we want the Church to shine as the light of the world, then we must beseech Him to make it so, for He alone can accomplish it, and then we must labor for it.

IV. Conclusion