



**December 13/14, 2017**

Pastor Jeff Hesse

*I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness...* (Isaiah 61:10a)

**Welcome / Opening Prayer**

**Opening Conversation: What is a “prophet”? Who was Isaiah?**

- Isaiah means “The LORD saves.” “Major” prophet of OT (along with Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel).
- Theology / unveiling of God’s plan: The Book of Isaiah (“mini” Bible – 39 + 27 chapters) ... an un-veiling of the fullness of God’s judgment and salvation in the *advent* (comings of the Messiah).
- Political/societal context: The time of the kings and unfaithfulness... the coming of Assyria and Babylon... and the coming of the King of Creation. Isaiah likely sawed in half.

**Bible Study: Lectio Divina (“Divine Reading”)**

**Step #1: Read Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11.** Quietly reflect on the text.

**Step #2: Re-Read Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11.** What does God say about Himself, His Kingdom? What does God promise? **\*\*Table Talk\*\***

**Step #3: Read Luke 4:14-21.** Reflect. What did Jesus not quote?

**Step #4: Re-read Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11-** What might God be saying **to you** as a member of His Kingdom right now? **\*\*Group Discussion\*\***

**Read John 1:6-8, & 19-28**

- Who was John “the Baptist”? What did he do?
- What are some of the similarities between Isaiah and John (over 770 years apart)? What about the planned actions of God?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

- What commands does Paul give as an apostle of Christ?
- What blessing does Paul give?
- What encouragement does Paul give you?
- How does this impact you as you live your life in God’s Kingdom?

**Final Thoughts, Questions & Closing Prayer**



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