

Sermon Notes:

Date: 12/17/2023

Speaker: Gary Reiss

Sermon Title: Let's Celebrate

Verses:

Isaiah 61:1-11

<https://bible.com/bible/11/isa.61.1-11.NIV>



"Joy does not come from positive predictions about the state of the world. It does not depend on the ups and downs of circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world.

Jesus says it loudly and clearly: 'In the world you will have troubles, but rejoice, I have overcome the world.' The surprise is not that, unexpectedly, things turn out better than expected. No, the real surprise is that God's light is more real than all the darkness, that God's truth is more powerful than all human lies, that God's love is stronger than death."

~ Henri Nouwen



Good News

- * For the poor
- * For the brokenhearted
- * For captives
- * For prisoners



"to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,"
Isaiah 61:2

The Year of Jubilee

"Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan."
Leviticus 25:10

Sermon Notes:

Instead of...

- ❁ To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes
- ❁ The oil of joy instead of mourning
- ❁ A garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair



Let's Make A Trade

- ➔ Give me your ashes...I'll give you a **Crown of Beauty**
- ➔ Give me your mourning...I'll give you the **Oil of Joy**
- ➔ Give me your despair...I'll give you a **Garment of Praise**



THEY...

- Will be called Oaks of Righteousness
- Will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated
- Will renew the ruined cities
- Become partners with God in this restoration work



Daily Application: "God's light is more real than all the darkness; God's truth is more powerful than all human lies; And God's love is stronger than death."

~ Henri Nouwen

"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed." 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, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." Isaiah 61:8-10

