

Evangelism Series – teaching #2 Themes of Salvation in the Book of Isaiah

Salt at the Crossroads of the Earth

Review of session #1

A three dimensional prophecy

1. Physical Kingdom – Old Testament Israel as a type & shadow
2. Spiritual Kingdom – ushered in by the Messianic work of Jesus
3. Eternal Kingdom – The Kingdom of heaven.

The Condition

Six Conditions that stop evangelism

1. People have turned against God because they do not understand his heart towards them.
2. People have entered into lives of sin, they have become loaded down with the burden of guilt – they are wounded and have allowed the enemy to plunder their land and have become an immoral society.
3. People have become religious and have missed the point of God's purpose for his church. To be an agency of compassion and mercy that demonstrates God's nature.
4. People have missed the ready and available provision of God.
5. People have lost an eternal view of heaven.
1. People have a fatal heart condition – their hearts have become hardened.

The Call for

- cleansing – A pure heart and authentic faith that the message is true.
- response – “Who will go?” – “Here am I send me!”

The question

- How long? The answer - All the way to the end. Until all those that will, will finally understand and receive. (Isa. 6:11)
- A picture of “The Man from Snowy River”. (Julia Pickerell – Columbus Vineyard)
- Chapters 1 – 39 - warning and judgment before the last 27 chapters of comfort and the proclamation of hope and salvation. Jesus quoted from these passages of Isaiah when he spoke to his disciples about the last days in Matt. 24 & Luke 21. He warned us not to be unaware of the time we live but to live according to his will.
- Isaiah communicates a sense of importance & urgency.

Isaiah 24 – (Ch. 24-27 form a unit that speaks more generally to world history.)

¹Look! The LORD is about to destroy the earth and make it a vast wasteland. See how he is scattering the people over the face of the earth. ²Priests and laypeople, servants and masters, maids and mistresses, buyers and sellers, lenders and borrowers, bankers and debtors--none will be spared. ³The earth will be completely emptied and looted. The LORD has spoken! ⁴The earth dries up, the crops wither, the skies refuse to rain. ⁵The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted the instructions of God, violated his laws, and broken his everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore, a curse consumes the earth and its people. They are left desolate, destroyed by fire. Few will be left alive. ⁷All the joys of life will be gone. The grape harvest will fail, and there will be no wine. The merrymakers will sigh and mourn. ⁸The clash of tambourines will be stilled; the happy cries of celebration will be heard no more. The melodious chords of the harp will be silent. ⁹Gone are the joys of wine and song; strong drink now turns bitter in the mouth. ¹⁰The city writhes in chaos; every home is locked to keep out looters. ¹¹Mobs gather in the streets, crying out for wine. Joy has reached its lowest ebb. Gladness has been banished from the land. ¹²The city is left in ruins, with its gates battered down.

¹³Throughout the earth the story is the same--like the stray olives left on the tree or the few grapes left on the vine after harvest, only a remnant is left. ¹⁴But all who are left will shout and sing for joy. Those in the west will praise the LORD's majesty. ¹⁵In eastern lands, give glory to the LORD. In the coastlands of the sea, praise the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁶Listen to them as they sing to the LORD from the ends of the earth. Hear them singing praises to the Righteous One!

Isaiah 9 – Like in the case of Israel God will put his people in the perfect place at a perfect time to shine and be light and salt!

¹Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will soon be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. (*Events of 2 Kings 15:29-regions of Israel conquered by Assyrians*) ²The people who walk in darkness will see a great light--a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow. ³Israel will again be great, and its people will rejoice as people rejoice at harvest time. They will shout with joy like warriors dividing the plunder. ⁴For God will break the chains that bind his people and the whip that scourges them, (*He will bring freedom*) just as he did when he destroyed the army of Midian with Gideon's little band. (*That freedom will come supernaturally*) ⁵In that day of peace, battle gear will no longer be issued. Never again will uniforms be bloodstained by war. All such equipment will be burned. (*He will provide a peace that passes all understanding even in the midst of adversity*)

⁶For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this! (*The whole point is for the presentation of Jesus*)

The key to effective evangelism

Be Salt & light in a world of darkness

Matt. 5

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴You are the light of the world-- like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. ¹⁵Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Leviticus 2 – Put salt on your sacrifice (*Christ-likeness*). The Christian life is meant to be a living sacrifice. (Romans 12)

¹³Season all your grain offerings with salt, to remind you of God's covenant. Never forget to add salt to your grain offerings.

Salt is a reminder of God's covenant and his heart for men

- Penetrates – every aspect of our lives
- Preserves – from evil & decay
- A healing agent – from sin and infirmity
- Flavor – It stands out, is distinct; doesn't blend in. It brings out the best of what is already there. (The best in others)

Being salt requires freedom

- Freedom from
 - Intimidation
 - Inadequacy & inferiority
 - Fear
 - Being inhibited
- Freedom to
 - Die to self and become other centered.
 - Be comfortable in identity
 - Be joyful and promote a positive attitude

A point of application

We live clearly in a dark and difficult time in world history.

- There fear in the hearts of millions of people and for good reason.
- International terrorism
- Genocide & ethnic cleansing
- Gang violence that is out of control.
- Nuclear arms are rapidly getting into the wrong hands.
- An environment that is rapidly degrading
- A quality of life that is being lost that we once took for granted.

Boise, Idaho is a special place

- Forbes magazine – “Best place of Business & careers”
- Inc. magazine – “Second best city in America to do business”
- Wall Street journal – “Oasis for retirees”
- Travel Tips magazine – “Jewel of the West”
- Bike magazine – “#1 mountain biking town”
- A major base for corp. headquarter and financial center – with less than 1 mill. People it serves as the headquarters for four major international headquarters and many other key firms.
- One of the fastest growing locations in America.
 - Est. that by 2020 there will be over 1 million population (15 years)
 - Meridian alone has doubled in population in the last 10 years and is expected to double again in the next 5 years.
- The church is significant:
 - Unity of pastors and churches
 - MAF – relocation of 130 families – One of the leading mission agencies in the world.

We need more than ever to be salt & light!

We must remember our commission – to present the invitation of the Lord:

Isaiah 55 - Invitation to the Lord's Salvation

¹"Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink--even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk--it's all free! ²Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul! ³"Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, for the life of your soul is at stake. I am ready to make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the mercies and unfailing love that I promised to David. ⁴He displayed my power by being my witness and a leader among the nations. ⁵You also will command the nations, and they will come running to obey, because I, the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious." ⁶Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. ⁷Let the people turn from their wicked deeds. Let them banish from their minds the very thought of doing wrong! Let them turn to the LORD that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸"My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

¹⁰"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. ¹¹It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. ¹²You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! ¹³Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow. Where briars grew, myrtles will sprout up. This miracle will bring great honor to the LORD's name; it will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.