

February 28 – March 6, 2009
JESUS HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED - PART 2
BEAUTY FOR ASHES

In this lesson you will learn it is Jesus' desire to heal and give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

- I. Jesus preached from this passage in His first message – Isaiah 61:1-3.
 - A. Verse 1 – Jesus was sent to preach good tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.
 - B. Verse 2 – To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord ... to comfort all who mourn.
 - C. Verse 3 – To console those who mourn and give them:
 1. Beauty for ashes. The ashes of destruction, defeat, and discouragement can be turned into something beautiful. Ecclesiastes 3:11 – “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”
 2. The oil of joy for mourning.
 3. The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.
 - D. Verse 4 – They shall rebuild the old ruins and raise up the former desolations ... repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

- II. Hurting people need to be healed.
 - A. People are hurt by rejection, divorce, abandonment, abusive words, and abusive actions; often hurting people hurt others.
 - B. The accuser of the brethren (the devil) tries to make people feel guilty, ashamed, and embarrassed because of past experiences in their life.

- III. Jesus took our sin and our shame upon Himself at the cross.
 - A. James 2:13 – “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”
 1. We need to not be so religious that we become mean and judgmental, not allowing people to rise up when they are down.
 2. Once you are healed of hurts you need to show mercy to others and help them get healed.
 - B. Habakkuk 2:2 – God has a plan for your life so hold on to your dream. Write it down.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share how you have been healed and received beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.
- Was there a time you felt guilty, ashamed, or embarrassed about past negative experiences?
- How are you showing mercy to someone who needs to be healed?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

This week reach out to someone who needs healing and show them the mercy of God.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 61:3 – “To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.”