Great Oaks

Raising people who transform the world

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me
to **bring good news** to the poor; he has sent me to **bind up** the brokenhearted,
to **proclaim liberty** to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2 to **proclaim the year** of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to **comfort all** who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to **give them** a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; 6 but you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonour they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy (Isaiah 61:1-7 ESV)

Who is he & What's he come to do?

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me"

The anointed one – the Christ

He proclaims

"bring good news to the poor"

"proclaim liberty to the captives;

"(proclaim the) opening of the prison to those bound"

"to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour"

"and the day of vengeance of our God"

(note that Jesus did proclaim that there would be a day of judgement

> "If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not **come to judge the world but to save the world**. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken **will judge him on the last day**" (John 12:47-48 ESV)

He heals

"bind up the brokenhearted"

He comforts

"to comfort all who mourn"

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

What did he achieve?

"that they may be called oaks of righteousness (Great Oaks), the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified."

Other Kings left great cities, great buildings and great wealth.
The King of Kings left great oaks.

4 **They** shall build up the ancient ruins; **they** shall raise up the former devastations; **they** shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; 6 but you shall be called the **priests** of the Lord; they shall **speak of you as the ministers** of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonour they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land **they shall possess** a double portion; **they shall have everlasting joy** (Isaiah 61:1-7 ESV)

Who was doing all the work in the first three verses? The "Anointed One" was proclaiming, healing and comforting. But who is doing the work now? The Oaks!

Notice this is where the Anointed one's work stops and our work begins

They will rebuild ancient ruins

They shall raise up the former devastations;

They shall repair the ruined cities

How? Many ways but...

Proclaim

Heal

Comfort

You shall be called the **priests** of the Lord; they shall **speak of you as the ministers** of our God

You shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonour they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land **they shall possess** a double portion; **they shall have everlasting joy**

Other Kings left great cities, great buildings and great wealth.
The King of Kings left great oaks.

Want to know what our vision is. What are we raising? "great oaks" who transform the world.

Conclusion

> “the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified”
>
> The earth will be filled with glory of the Lord. How is the earth filled? Filled with great oaks who display his glory
>
> our mission is to see God's kingdom, God's glory fill the earth
>
> what do we do in order to see that happen? There's lots of things we can do. One thing we must do. Raise great people.
>
> That's what Jesus said “make disciples of all nations” disciples is his shorthand for great people...

Questions for Group or Individual Study

1. What stands out to you from Isaiah 61:1-7?
2. Where have you seen Jesus set you free like a captive?
3. What do you think in practice the difference between proclaiming and speaking is?
4. How does it feel to be called a 'great oak'?
5. What 'ancient cities' do you think that Jesus is calling you to rebuild?