

## Week 10

### Isaiah 61:1-11 “The Great Reversal”

#### Begin with prayer

Good and gracious God,

Thank you for this semester and for the opportunity to gather together for this Bible study. Thank you for the opportunity to spend time in your scripture and in fellowship with you people. As this semester comes to a close, we ask that the promise of the gospel will fill our hearts. May we be transformed by it. We also pray that one day all things and all people may be reconciled to you. May we share the good news of your love with everyone we encounter.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen

Read the text for today. (Suggestion: Go around and read it out loud, each person taking a verse.)

Ask: What stood out to you about this text? What, if anything, doesn't make sense? What caught your attention and sparked curiosity?

Few passages are as full of imagery as is Isaiah 61. These words serve as a sign of new hope and beginnings. This passage is full of fresh joy that delivers more gospel cargo than some long and well worded sermons. Many of these words cause nostalgia because we know they formed the basis of Jesus' first sermon as recorded in Luke 4.

Isaiah points to what so many people long for every single day of their lives: the great reversal. The poor whose lives have for so long been filled with nothing but bad news receive the gift of good news. Those long held captive in dungeons and prisons receive their promised freedom. Those who for years have spent many days dampening handkerchiefs with their tears, receive comfort and are pointed toward a day of smiles and laughter. Ashes get blown away to make way for glittering crowns. The drab clothing of

