

December 7, 2022

Now is the Time
[Isaiah 61:1-4](#)

*¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,*

"Come one, come all! See this exciting new vision God has for us. Step right up! All are welcome!" This is what I hear Isaiah saying. Salvation is available to all. Accept God's grace and you obtain salvation. Your ticket into heaven. Right??

Isaiah's call is a little more than that. Isaiah is challenging us to name salvation as a quality of life here and now that reflects God's desire for human community. He is challenging us to live the good news, provide healing, liberty, release, and comfort.

He invites us to participate in ushering in this view of salvation by being more missional, by being more proactive, and by being more outwardly focused.

Like the mighty oaks standing tall in the sun, Isaiah is calling us to stand arm in arm with our brothers and sisters in Christ to rebuild, restore, and renew our vision of the church.

Now is the time to act. Now is the prime opportunity to do this as we are winding down and coming close to post pandemic stages. The global pandemic has provided us with opportunities that we wouldn't have identified with for years, if ever.

We had to rethink our approach to church. Now is the time to continue that "rethinking," that imagining of how we reach the unchurched. Now is the time to step up and step out into the real world rather than seek shelter behind the brick and mortar of our church buildings. Put your imaginations to the test. What can you and your church do to take our church in a new direction?

Prayer: O Lord, we thank you for the words from Isaiah that encourage us to think outside the box. Guide us to live according to your desire. Flood us with ideas and opportunities to share good news, healing, liberty, release, and comfort. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

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