Wednesday March 23rd Bible Study: MASTER HEALER WEEK #3

Isaiah 35:4-7 (NLT) New Living Translation

The book of Isaiah is the first writing of the prophet in the Bible, and Isaiah, the author, is generally considered to be the greatest prophet. He was probably reared in an aristocratic home and was married to a prophet. According to some modern interpretations, Isaiah wife was called” the prophetess”, either because she was endowed with the prophetic gift or simply because she was the wife of the prophet. In the beginning of his ministry, he was liked. But, like most prophets, he soon became unpopular because his messages were so difficult to hear. He called the people to turn from their lives of sin and warned them of God's judgement and punishment.

In chapters 1-34, Isaiah has delivered a message of judgment on all nations, including Israel and Judah, for rejecting God. Although there have been glimpses of relief and restoration for the remnant of faithful believers, the climate of wrath, fury, judgment and destruction has prevailed. Now Isaiah breaks through with the vision of beauty and encouragement. God is just as thorough in his mercy as he is severe in his judgment. This same moral perfection is revealed in his love for all he has created. This leads to mercy for those who have sinned but who have sincerely loved Jesus and put their trust in him.

This chapter is a beautiful picture of the final Kingdom in which God will establish his justice and destroy all evil. This is the world the redeemed can anticipate after the judgement when creation itself will rejoice in God. Chapter 34 spoke of a great distress when God will judge all people for their actions. Chapter 35 pictures the days when life will be peaceful at last, and everything will be made right.

Let's read Isaiah 35:4-7

Hope for restoration:

(VS4). Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be Strong and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.

(VS5). And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

(VS6). The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland.

(VS7). The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy their thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived.

(VS8). And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the highway of Holiness. Evil minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there.

In Isaiah 35:4 It says, “Say to those with fearful hearts be strong and do not fear”. We Can look at this further in psalms 145:19-21

PSALMS

(VS19) He grants the desires of those who fear him; he hears the cries for help and rescues them.

(VS20) The Lord protects all those who love him, but he destroys the wicked.

(VS21) I will praise the Lord and may everyone on earth bless his holy name forever and ever.

David wrote this, to provide poetry for the expressions of praise worship and confession to God. A time will come when all people join together and recognizing and worshiping God. Because God is full of love, he satisfies all who trust in him. If you are bending under a burden and feel that you are about to fall, turn to God for help. He is ready to lift you up and to bear your burdens.

In Isaiah 35:5 It says he will open the eyes of the blind and unplugged it ears of the death. This also can be looked at in John the 9th chapter (VS6-7). Where Jesus heals the blind man.

In Isaiah 35:6 It says those who cannot speak will sing for joy! springs will gush forth in the wilderness and streams will water the wasteland.

NOTE:

Let's look at Luke 11:14 when it says those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

Luke 11:14 One day Jesus cast out a demon from a man who couldn't speak, and when the demon was gone the man began to speak. The crowd was amazed.

NOTE:

 Also let’s look at the last part of Isaiah 35:6 when it says springs will gush forth in the wilderness and streams will water the wasteland.

JOHN 7:37-38 reads like this. (VS37) On the last day, the climax of the festival Jesus stood and shouted to the crowd,” Anyone Who is thirsty may come to me! (VS38) Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! for the scriptures declare,” Rivers of living water will flow from his heart”.

Jesus words,” come and drink,” alluded to the theme of many Bible passages that talk about the messiah's life-giving blessings. And promising to give the Holy Spirit to allow all who believed Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah for that was something only the Messiah could do.

Lastly let's look at (Isaiah 35:8)

(ISAIAH 35:8) And the great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil- minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there.

NOTE:

(Matthew 7:13-14) Jesus teaches about the way to heaven: This is Jesus Talking

(VS13) You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate the highway to hell is broad, and the gate is wide for the many who choose that way.

(VS14) But the gate to life is very narrow and the road is difficult and only a few ever find it.

Matthew 7:13-14 The gate that leads to eternal life (John10:7-9) is called “narrow”. This does not mean that it is difficult to become a Christian but that there is only one way to eternal life with God and that only a few decide to walk that road. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven, because he alone died for our sins and made us right before God. Living his way may not be popular, but it is true and right. thank God there is one way!

(JOHN 10:7-9) (6-18) Lets read:

(JOHN 10:6-18)

(VS6) Those who heard Jesus used this illustration didn't understand what he meant, (VS7) so he explained it to them. This is Jesus exact words: I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. (VS8) All who come before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. (VS9) Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. (VS10) The thief’s purpose is to steal and to kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (VS11) I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. (VS12) A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him, and he isn't their shepherd. And so, the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. (VS13) The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep. (VS14) I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, (VS15) just as my Father knows me, I know the Father. So, I sacrificed my life for the sheep. (VS16) I have other sheep, 2 that are not in this sheep fold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock with one shepherd. (VS17) The Father loves me because I sacrificed my life so I may take it back again. (VS18) No one can take my life from me. I sacrificed it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my father has commanded”.

As we end, there are some questions I would like to propose to you:

1. What restoration and healing are you longing for?
2. What healing is necessary in the community around you and in the world?
3. Where do your eyes need to be opened to a fuller understanding of God's intention for the beloved community?

Master Healer

God of all healing,

you who knit us together in the womb of a woman,

fashioned our bodies in intricate ways-

fearfully and wonderfully made,

bearers of the image and likeness of the creator,

temples of the holy one-

know every cell and sinew.

When we longed for healing beyond the bounds of

human hands and medicine,

beyond the threshold of disease and diagnosis,

we turn to you.

you are the master healer.

when you touch, we are healed

when you touch, we are whole.

when you touch, we are restored.

Touch, God of all healing, touch. Amen.

by Latrelle Miller Easterling Bishop……….