

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 7th March 2021
Sermon Title: Prophecy: the promise that beckons us forward
Bible Passage: Isaiah 54: 1 - 5

Recapping the Preach

Throughout March we will be exploring the 4P's for KBC: prophecy, priorities, purpose and pursuits as we reset our focus as a faith family. Stu began by sharing that God is always taking us somewhere. Even when it does not feel like it, He is always at work. Often the role of the Old Testament prophets was to point the people in the direction that God was leading them. Take time to read Isaiah 54:1-5.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- How does this passage connect to the surrounding passages?
- Is there anything in the passage that you have questions about?
- How do you think the original hearers would have received this message?

Stu mentioned the need for repentance and to hold this prophecy: the promise that beckons us forward, in our minds so we can return to what God has called us to do. He broke the passage down into 5 main thoughts

1. The Servant's work is done (52:13 - 53:12)

The Suffering Servant has given His life to pay the penalty for sin, so that humankind can be reconciled to God.

- Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12.
- How does this passage describe the condition of humankind?
- Make a list of all that the Servant of the Lord do on our behalf (write it down)? What does this tell you about the character and nature of God?

2. Sing, O barren woman (54:1)

Through the work of the Suffering Servant the way has been made for sons and daughters to be birthed from above.

- Why is Israel described as a 'barren woman'?
- What is the significant of the promise in verse 2-3?

3. Make space (54:2-3)

God has promised that the resulting growth will be exponential (spread out to the right and left) therefore the church must make space for this.

4. Do not be afraid (54:4-5)

The disgrace, humiliation and shame because of sin has been atoned for by the Suffering Servant.

- What was the cause of the fear, shame, disgrace and humiliation of the people?
- How does sin in our lives cause shame, disgrace, fear and humiliation?
- God is described as Maker, husband, Lord Almighty, Holy One, Redeemer and God of all the earth (vs.5). How do these names relate to the command, 'Do not be afraid'?
- How is knowing God as Maker, husband, Lord Almighty, Holy One, Redeemer and God of all the earth; changing your life?

5. Enlarge, stretch and strengthen (54:2)

This is where God invites us in to be a part of the work He is doing among us.

- What do you think 'Enlarging our Tent' might look like for us as a church?
- How is God stretching you at the moment?
- In what areas of your life / discipleship do you need strengthening?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- What part is God calling you to play in seeing the fulfilment of this promise?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray for that God would stir your heart with this prophecy.
- Pray that God would lead and equip us in the next steps to seeing this picture fulfilled.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>