Lesson Nineteen: **Isaiah 61** Jeans of Joy & Shirts of Praise

*(extracted from Isaiah – Trusting God in Troubled Times by Howard Peskett)*

1. Jesus inaugurated his public ministry with verse 1 and 2 at Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21). Imagine you were to give a message based on these verses. What would you say?
2. Summarize the transforming ministry of the Lord’s anointed servant in verses 1-3.
3. What metaphors are used in verse 3?

What kind of image does each one give you?

1. How do these verses help provide encouragement in areas of personal need?
2. Those who God transforms are to live lives which “display his beauty” (v. 3). What implications does this statement carry for our witness?
3. How do verses 4-9 depict Zion’s transformed situation?
4. What will the reaction of Zion’s people be?
5. How could the predictions of verses 4-9 be understood metaphorically (referring to nations outside of Israel)?
6. How are the two metaphors for righteousness found in the delighted outburst of song in verses 10-11 appropriate?
7. There is a strong emphasis in this chapter on “righteousness” (vv. 3, 10-11) and “justice” (v. 8). How can you take a stand for justice this week for the glory of God’s name?
8. This chapter speaks of everlasting joy (v. 7). What is the secret of a joy that never fades?

*Pray for the poor, for the brokenhearted and for prisoners.*