

Bible Study based on Advent Bible Study Series A by Adam Francisco

Session 3

Theme: The Remedy for Sin

Opening Prayer is Psalm 146: 5-10 ESV

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the
fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to
ruin.

¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Amen

Law/Gospel Focus:

We are born spiritually dead on account of sin. We may try all sorts of ways to remedy our condition, but all attempts prove futile. God has seen our sickness and in response has sent the Great Physician to us. This Physician heals us by taking our sin and putting it to death with Him on the cross. Through His death and resurrection we are raised to new life with Him.

Introduction: A story about Dolores

1. What do you think Dolores was thinking as she reflected on the confession? "(I am) by nature sinful and unclean"? _____
2. Do you think God could heal Dolores of her blindness? Is there a problem with the remark that her wholeness was dependent upon the amount of faith she had? _____
3. When had Dolores been made whole? When were you made whole? _____

Isaiah 35:1-2

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

2 it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

1. Romans 8:22 says, "The whole creation has been groaning." Compare this to Isaiah 35: 1-2. Both authors speak of creation, but in different ways. Compare and contrast the differences. What does this say about the work of Christ? _____
2. According to Isaiah, what are two things that will happen at Christ's Second Coming? _____
3. James 5:11 states, "We consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about." Compare what you know of Job's life to the perseverance James is speaking of. Why do you think James uses Job as an example? _____

Let's read the Gospel Matthew 11: 2-11 (page 4)

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4. In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist appears to be impatient as he sends his disciples to question Jesus, even though he had previously pointed to Jesus and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Why do you think John the Baptist grows impatient? What evidence does Jesus offer John to verify that He is in fact the Messiah? _____
5. Even though John the Baptist questions whether Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus still speaks on John's behalf. What does Jesus say? What does this say to us when we experience impatience while waiting for the Lord's return? _____

Connect

1. Can you think of a time in which you were impatient with God? What was it that caused your impatience? During these times, what reminded you of God's promises? _____
2. James urges us to be patient and to keep from "grumbling against each other." James sites Job as an example. What New Testament figures can we look to for comfort in times of persecution? What are some ways you can keep yourself from grumbling against members of your congregation?
3. Isaiah 35:8 says, "A highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in the Way." Does this mean that we must be perfect in order to walk on this highway? Explain your answer. _____

Closing pray together this Collect:

Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. You once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Next week's theme is The Infinite in the Finite

Isaiah 7: 10-17; Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25

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Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

² it shall blossom abundantly

and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,

the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie
down,

the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of
Holiness;

the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on
the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go
astray.^[a]

⁹ No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up
on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall
return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5: 7-10

Patience in Suffering

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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Matthew 11: 2-11

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.