


“The LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the **poor**.  
 He has sent me to bind up the **brokenhearted**,  
 to proclaim freedom for the captives  
 and release from **darkness** the prisoners...  
 to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
 and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.  
 They will be called **oaks of righteousness**,  
 a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”  
 ISAIAH 61:1-3



2000 years ago, Jesus stood in a small town, unrolling a scroll with these words to declare that He was the fulfillment of God's promise. Later, Jesus again used this description to assure His imprisoned cousin, John the Baptist, of His identity and mission. He was more than a moral or religious teacher. He was more than a political reformer or social activist. He was the promised Messiah – the Christ. He was the hope and light of the world.

This is what we still need now – not just morality or religion. Not just social justice, charity, friendship, education, or positive thinking. We need real hope and eternal change. We need to be valued, loved, saved, and empowered by our heavenly Father.

Today, the poor still need to hear the good news of the gospel. Broken hearts still need healed. People are still trapped in the darkness of sin, hopelessly lost. But God is picking up His children from the dust and breathing new life into them, dressing them in beauty, joy, and praise, washing away their sorrow, and growing them up for all the world to see His glory on display through the good fruit of their lives.

A DIFFERENCE CAN BE MADE.  
 IN YOU.  
 AND THROUGH YOU.  
 TODAY.  
 AND FOREVER.