

# Advent in Isaiah

The Third Sunday of Advent: Love

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

“Highly Favored”

***“and a little child shall lead them”***

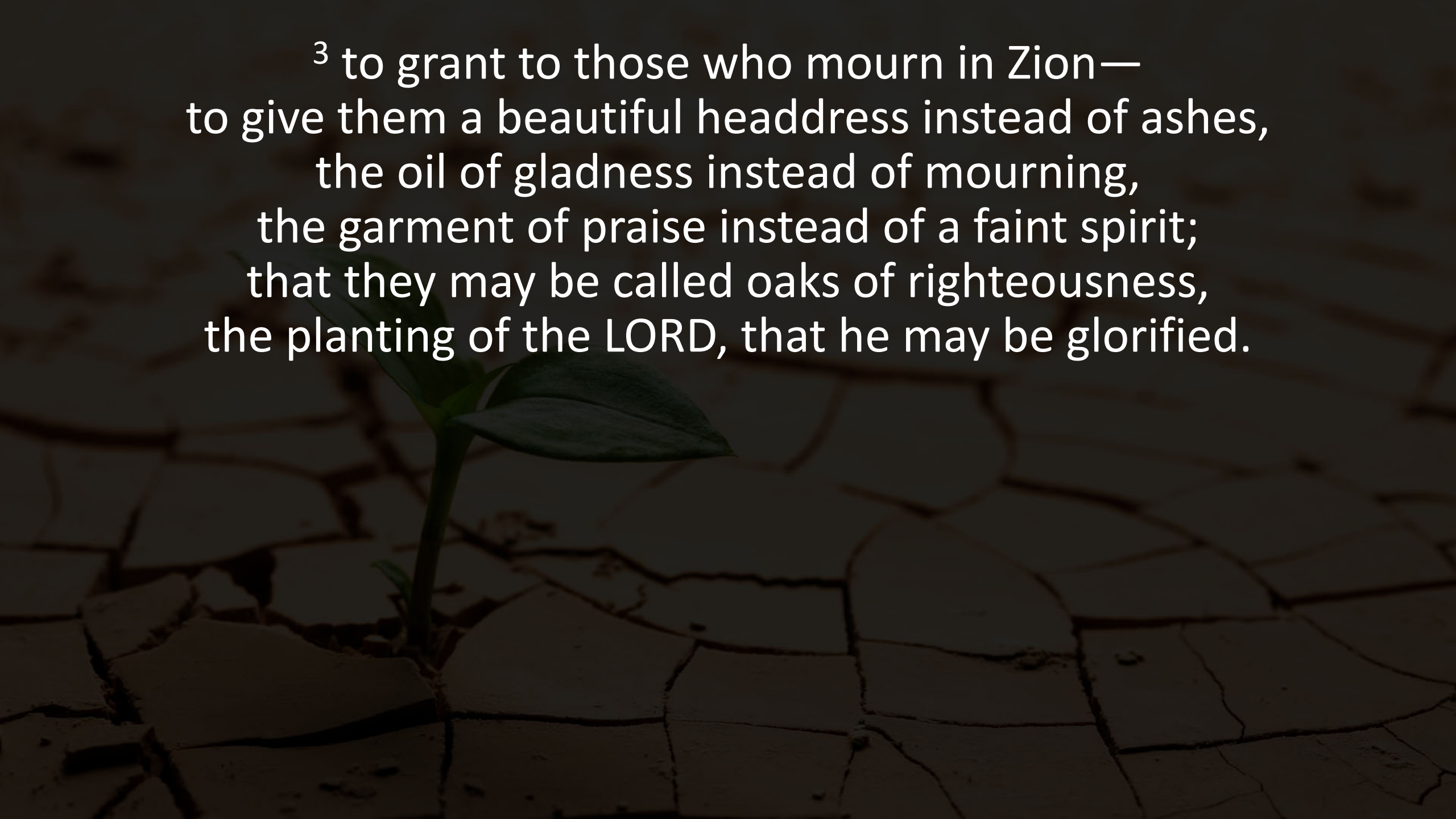
***Isaiah 11:6***

# Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;



<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.




<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself  
like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.







Jesus  
loves you  
(BUT I'M HIS FAVORITE)



# What Love Is

Matthew 22:37-40

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Made ***OUT OF*** Love

1 John 4:8  
God is love

Made ***TO BE*** Loved

We need love as  
much as we need  
air, food and water

Made ***TO*** Love

John 13:34b  
just as I have loved  
you, you also are to  
love one another.

# What Love Is

Luke 1:26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, ***O favored one***, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "***Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.***" <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

To "FAVOR" others over myself;  
Desiring and enacting what is best for them,  
at my own expense



# Who Love is For

**Poor**

**Brokenhearted**

**Captive**

**Mourners**

**In The World**

*Debt, Sadness, Loss*

**In My Heart**

*Slave to...*

*(example: approval of others)*

**Ultimately...**

*Debt of sin; slave to myself*

# Who Love is For

**Poor**

**Brokenhearted**

**Captive**

**Mourners**



Revelation 3:17-19

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup>

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.



## Who Love is For

**Poor**

**Brokenhearted**

**Captive**

**Mourners**

Christ is promised to none but those who have been humbled and overwhelmed by a conviction of their distresses, who have no lofty pretensions...the Gospel is intended for "the afflicted," that is, for those who know that they are destitute of everything good, that they may gather courage and support. For what purpose were prophets, and apostles, and other ministers, anointed and sent, but to cheer and comfort the afflicted by the doctrine of grace?

John Calvin

# What Love Does – For & In Us

**Poor**

**Good News**

**Brokenhearted**

**Binding Up / Healing**

**Captive**

**Freedom**

**Mourners**

**Comfort**

God's love is personal and specific,  
favoring us exactly where we are and what we need.  
God is able to do this because His Love isn't merely an action, but a Person,  
Born and Crucified for You.

# What Love Does – For & In Us

**Poor**

**Brokenhearted**

**Captive**

**Mourners**

*<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,*

**The Year of Jubilee**

(Leviticus 25)

All debts Cancelled

Prisoners Set Free

Land Returned to Original Owners



# What Love Does – For & In Us

Poor

Brokenhearted

Captive

Mourners

Luke 4:17-21

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to (Jesus). He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

*<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

*<sup>21b</sup> “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

# What Love Does – For & In Us

1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

# What Love Does – For & In Us

<sup>10</sup> he has covered me with  
the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks  
himself like a priest with a  
beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns  
herself with her jewels.



“My deepest awareness of myself  
is that I am deeply loved by Jesus  
Christ and I have done nothing to  
earn it or deserve it.”

Brennan Manning,  
The Ragamuffin Gospel



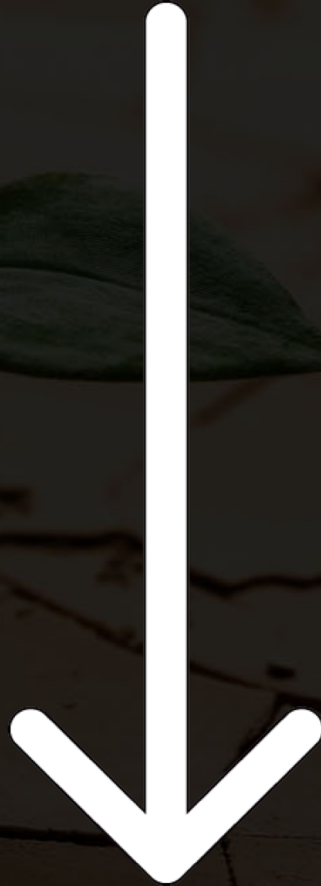
# What Love Does – Through Us

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

We...

Have Been Loved  
Are Being Loved  
Will Be Loved

And therefore we...



<sup>10</sup> I will *greatly rejoice* in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the  
garments of salvation;  
<sup>11</sup> ... so the Lord GOD will cause  
righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

# What Love Does – Through Us

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Are Being Loved  
Will Be Loved

And therefore we...



**Love Upward**  
in Worship

**Love Around**  
in Fellowship  
and Discipleship

**Love Outward**  
in Missions

# To “Favor” - Locally



Caring for the underserved in our area through practical and spiritual assistance.



Shelter and help for those in our area that are homeless.



Relationally sharing the Gospel with local 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, especially those who are outside of church as well as teen moms.



# To "Favor" - Globally

*Serge* Grace at the Fray

Leah Emory :  
London



The Helms :  
London



The Allens :  
Africa



The Yanceys :  
Costa Rica



HORIZON  
CHURCH 



# Leah Emory: Serge | London



# To “Favor” - Personally

Each of us our everyday world.

Family. School. Job. Community.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are  
ambassadors for Christ, God  
making his appeal through us.

John 13:35

By this all people will know  
that you are my disciples, if  
you have love for one another.



## **1 Corinthians 11:23-25**

**For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

