12/11/17 - Coworkers With God

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Isaiah 61:1-11

We immediately recognize the words of Isaiah 61 as the words Jesus read in the synagogue in Nazareth when He announced His redemptive mission to the world. In the Isaiah setting, they are the words of the prophet, speaking as he has been inspired by the Spirit of God. Israel, then in exile, was given the promise that God had initiated their redemption and restoration as His people.

But their restoration was not merely for their sake: "You will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God" (v. 6). They were to be coworkers with God. His redemptive purposes for Israel were not for the sake of Israel. They were to be the avenue by which all of creation would call on the God of Israel.

We are God's coworkers, evidence that God's redemptive work has begun. We are not to hide away within the walls of our church buildings. We are the planting of God, bearing fruit for Him. Through us, God "will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations" (v. 11).

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