

“The Master Mender!”

Isaiah 61:1-3

Intro. – Years ago while Mary, the kids and I were living in Bloomington, IN, we bought a 1979 Malibu that was a good deal... It was in great shape except for the headliner (common trait of that particular model and year...) I thought, “I can fix that...!” It took four hours of “fixing” for me to realize I wasn’t going to get the job done... I went to Chad Hardin to seek his counsel. He recommended Jim’s Custom Trim Shop (Martinsville, IN). I found out the cost, got an appointment and went to get the car fixed. Well, after an hour the job was done. It looked like new, cost less than a third of anywhere else I had checked and came with a guarantee “ever have any problems, bring it back and I’ll make it right.” He did such a good job I’ll be taking “the Blue Beast” soon.

The day I met this Jim, it was demonstrated to me the ability this man had in a particular job. He is a master mender when it comes to interior of cars. I marvel at his ability.

Let me use this to introduce the real Master Mender – Jesus our Lord! In Luke 4, it is recorded that Jesus was in His hometown. Meeting in the synagogue, He stood up and read. The passage He selected to read was Isaiah 61:1-3. The assembled crowd was astonished. What Jesus read sounded as though He was making the words of the prophet His own! The people didn’t have to wonder long. Jesus rolled the scroll up and after a tense moment of silence He said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

What did Jesus mean by this? Wasn’t this prophesy of the Jews being “healed and restored” after the Babylonian captivity? Why did Jesus select this particular prophesy? Because, leaving no doubt, Jesus makes clear this prophesy was all about Him – His mission and work. He came as The Master Mender and His work is to be perpetuated through His people.

Purpose: to better understand the how and why of Jesus being The Master Mender

I PREACHING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

A. Preaching *Good News*

1. All too well aware of the prevalence of bad news... we are surrounded by bad news...
 - Illus. – Mary calling to tell me a diaper just went down the stool... “bad news”... BUT, good news resulted in that thing never did clog the sewer line!
2. Our Lord came to give *good news* especially in light of the all the bad news!
 - Isaiah 52:7 “*How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’*”
3. Brethren and friend, we have this same message to live and to proclaim – that’s good news!

B. Preaching to the *Poor*

1. The *poor* here are “the poor in spirit,” the lowly, the afflicted, those willing to listen out of a sense of spiritual destitution – i.e. a repentant heart!
2. The wealthy, strong, famous sit at the feet of the world seeking “fulfillment”... These are the ones with unyielding hearts which in turn make them unrepentant...
3. The Master Mender made/makes His appeal not as a politician, philosopher, scientist, rock star or sports figure; instead, He appeals to all as Lord and Savior!
4. Here’s the point: the Gospel approaches all of mankind with their greatest need – a Savior from sin... and then the Gospel reveals that Savior. His name is Jesus!

This is the divine method and it must be ours as well!

II PROCLAIMING RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES

A. *Those Who Are Captives*

1. Captivity of any kind is a sad spectacle:
 - Illus. – remember going to one of my favorite zoos – St. Louis. Remember seeing a bald eagle caged up... There was something disturbing to me to see this majestic bird caged...
2. In this text, our Lord is referring strictly to human captives...

- B. What *Freedom* is Given
 - 1. Shackled by sin and death:
 - a. prior to grace we all were utter slaves to destroying habits and attitudes.
 - b. we did what we shouldn't and didn't do what we should... still struggle at times!
 - 2. It is from this *bondage* that release is promised and secured through Christ.
 - 3. Thus, *freedom* should mean so very much... In the Christian's case it means everything/eternity!

III RECOVERING OF *SIGHT TO THE BLIND*

- A. Physical Blindness is *Bad*
 - 1. No scenery... no books... no looking at expressions on faces etc.
 - 2. It literally means to grope about in thick blackness...
- B. *Moral* Blindness is *Bad*
 - 1. These are the ones who see nothing shameful in sin, drunkenness, nothing revolting in obscenity or profanity, nothing regrettable in living a lie...
 - 2. Conversely they see nothing noble in generosity, nothing honorable in righteousness and duty, nothing sacred in love, commitment and Truth!
- C. *Spiritual* Blindness is *Worst*
 - 1. Worst because this encompasses all of man's soul and spirit.
 - 2. These include those who don't know that they don't see, who suppose they know everything, but in reality they know nothing of any lasting value.
 - 3. The incarnate Christ (God in the flesh) came as *truth* in the flesh:
 - a. He came revealing our need (deliverance from sin) and He came providing solution to need!
 - b. Jesus truly came giving sight to the blind – that includes you and it includes me!

IV PROCLAIMING THE *YEAR OF OUR LORD*

- A. Lord's *Vengeance* Given
 - all accounts will be settled by God Himself... there will be no loose ends... all wrongs righted!
- B. Beauty for *Ashes*
 - 1. There will be comfort for the mourning/grieving...
 - 2. Our greatest need is to realize our condition apart from Christ = until one sees this they can't and won't experience the joy of salvation!
 - a. the beauty of ashes are the broken/blind/dejected lives being instilled with *hope*...
 - b. the beauty of ashes in realizing the futility of trying to work/earn salvation... amazing grace!
 - c. the beauty of ashes in knowing fellowship/friendship/son-daughtership been restored in X!
- C. Displayed for His *Splendor*
 - 1. God is identified through His people = imagine God has chosen to show His splendor through you and me!
 - 2. We are His hands, feet, His mouth. We're used by God to demonstrate His love, mercy and grace!

Only the Master Mender could accomplish such a stunning victory!

Conclusion: Years ago, Mary “challenged” me to read a Victoria Holt book. I did. It was entitled *The King of the Castle*. It was about a girl who comes to a castle in the place of her deceased father who had been hired to mend painting... The entire plot revolved around this young lady proving her worth as a mender of paintings...

How are we fairing as menders? God has chosen to work through His people. He has empowered us to: *preach to the poor; proclaim release to the captives; recovering sight to the blind; pronouncing the year of our Lord*. Max Reich saw a sign in a shop window that said: “We Mend Everything but Broken Hearts.” He went in to inquire where to send somebody with a broken heart and then shared this very passage of Scripture!

The application to this text is simple: we are to take the Master Mender to broken hearts!