

# GRIEVING IN ZION

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SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

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**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
Because 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 for the prisoners, to  
Proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the  
Day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who  
Mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion ...”**

**IS. 61:1-3**

**Most Christians are familiar with the first portion of this scripture from Isaiah because it was the text that the Lord Jesus used for His very first teaching when He began His ministry—a sermon which angered**

**the Jews because of its significance. And as we all know, Jesus stopped midway through verse 2 because He could not quote the latter portion of this verse—“the day of vengeance of our God”—and be able to say what He did: “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**

**However I was directed to these scriptures in Isaiah this morning during my morning reading and I was particularly stuck by the phrase: “provide for those who grieve in Zion.” Have you ever “grieved” over Zion? What does it mean to “grieve in Zion?”**

**One interesting aspect of being taken to Heaven is that you often see things there and you realize—“that’s in the Bible.” This has happened to both Evie and I a number of times. One such instance I shared when we were interviewed on Christian television here a few years ago. I shared my experience of going to church in Heaven. The church is located on Mount Zion in Heaven and it’s not called Mount Zion Baptist Church; it’s not called Mount Zion Lutheran Church or Mount Zion Methodist Church. It’s called Mount Zion Church—the church of the firstborn (cf. Hebrews 12:23). You talk about praise and worship! Wow! If more worship leaders could go there they would be ashamed and strive to achieve such excellence here on earth to bring their congregations into the Presence of the Lord. The Church of the Firstborn has a massive bookstore and everything in it is free!**

**But there is grieving going on there just like there is here by many of the saints who “grieve in Zion” over the condition of the church on earth today. Satan has hijacked most churches to do his bidding and therefore the Church Jesus died for is difficult to find today.**

**Let’s look back at Isaiah 61 and see what the Lord Jesus was anointed to do because it must also be the reason His true Church exists today—to carry out His Great Commission. Now notice first of all that the Word says, “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me.” So we see that Jesus as a man could do**

**nothing *until* He was anointed by the Spirit of God. So we notice first of all that real ministry can only take place by a person who is anointed by the Holy Spirit. Now they may be anointed for a Five-fold office such as evangelist and/or they can be anointed with specific anointing and gifts. The Bible is quite clear on this matter—all those who are born again are given spiritual gifts. That's why we encourage Christians all the time to find out what their gifts are and work with the Holy Spirit to develop them. If you don't, people will die and go to hell; people God wants to heal won't be healed; people who need a miracle won't receive one. Right? Jesus proved that, didn't He?**

**What did Jesus do? Did He just continue to sit there in the synagogue? No, He moved out among the people and then He was sensitive to the Holy Spirit and allowed the Spirit to move Him "with compassion" and minister to those in need. Did He minister to everyone? No! John 5 is a perfect example. This was a huge area with 5 covered porches that were quite large. I'm sure there were thousands of people there waiting to be healed yet Jesus only ministered to one man and then He left.**

**But now let's return to Isaiah 61, our key text for this teaching, and look at the first *thing* or *ministry* the Lord Jesus—and now His Church—was anointed to do—"to preach the gospel to the poor." Where is this ministry today? Very few people, especially the "BIG NAME" ministers want to minister to the poor. Why? Because the poor won't be tucking in any \$500 love offerings at the meeting so let's just let them go to hell! Not only that, but the poor cannot even attend their meetings because they all charge now for the "gospel" or whatever it is they are preaching. This in itself is a clear indication that they are not ministering for Jesus because they are going against the command of the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul by charging. The poor cannot afford to come to most meetings and all these "prophetic conferences" where, like in 1 Kings 22, all these false prophets are giving their**

**counsel for a fee and like the Lord said in Ezekiel they “are stealing each other’s words.”**

**Twenty-five years ago I used to question why anybody would pay \$250 for a prophecy from an ad in *Charisma* (let alone, why would they run the ad?) but now I’m shocked to discover that they are paying thousands of dollars for such prophecies. Mother Shawnee, who used to advertise when I lived in Houston years ago, is cheaper than that and her counsel is probably better too!**

**Listen! David gives 10 character traits in Psalm 15 for a person to “dwell” with the Lord. And in Psalm 101 he again lists some of the same character traits. Based on these, it is quite obvious that most of these Balaam boys as I call them cannot even enter God’s presence let alone speak for Him so why do people continue to give them money while ignoring the true ministry that the Church is called to like the poor and deliverance? This causes great grieving in Zion because the genuine ministry of the Lord Jesus is not being done.**

**Next to ministry to the poor in Jesus’ quotation from Isaiah 61 is the ministry “to bind up the brokenhearted.” How much of this type ministry do you see in churches today? Sadly it’s rare because most churches have adopted some type of ministry model that is categorically unbiblical—they don’t preach the gospel—they preach a variety of “other gospels.” They don’t allow the Gifts of the Spirit to be in manifestation. They don’t allow or encourage the people to develop their spiritual gifts. In short, there is almost no ministry going on. This causes “grieving in Zion” in Heaven and should be causing grieving here among the Body of Christ as well.**

**But ministry to the brokenhearted is greatly needed today. There are more brokenhearted people today than ever before and many became brokenhearted by those calling themselves by the Name of Christ. What is the main cause of a person becoming brokenhearted? Normally it’s in the area of human relationships. Even in the Church**

**where people should feel “safe” and loved we have become “cold” and do not exemplify the tremendous love that both Jesus and the Church of Acts had for people. There is much *witchcraft* in so many churches today—exploiting and manipulating people for the benefits they provide to the pastor/elders. Many if not most churches and ministries today have become a business—a business to be handed down to a family member.**

**Next in order of what the Lord Jesus did and what His Church should be doing is probably one of the main areas that the Holy Spirit showed me back in 2000 was part of the Gospel that He said “the church was ashamed of”—“to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” This is deliverance ministry and it is an operation of the Gift of Working of Miracles. As I’ve shared in several of my writings, the most shocking thing that the Lord’s ever said to me He spoke in October, 1991, and among other things He told me that “there are more people in America today in need of deliverance than there are in need of healing.” Who’s going to help them? Not the world and its demonic systems—only the Church has the supernatural power to accomplish this task.**

**We deal with many people every day who need deliverance yet where in this ministry in most churches in your community? But Jesus said we are supposed to “free the captives” so why aren’t we doing it? This failure by the church has caused much of the evil we see running rampant in society today—many, many people are demonized and cannot be delivered by psychology or psychiatry. And it’s both the ministry and responsibility of the Church to help free the captives.**

**But deliverance ministry is much like ministry to the poor—it is very time consuming and there are no financial rewards so most churches have no interest in obeying the Lord Jesus’ command in this area. As a result, there is much “grieving in Zion.”**

**Finally, in the area of ministries listed in Isaiah 61 we find in verse 2: “to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor.” What does this mean? We never hear anything preached about this. Mostly what we hear has to do, again, with some type of financial manipulation. “If you send a certain amount of money to some ministry *then* you will have God’s favor. What nonsense! Don’t be manipulated in the area of finances. Frankly most Christians *know* that they are wrong to support such “ministries” but they do it *hoping* to receive something from God. No, you will receive *nothing* from God if you invest His money in ungodly enterprises that claim to be working for the Kingdom. The tithe belongs to the Lord and you should invest it wisely for Him. Remember the lesson of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25. It’s the Lord’s money; pray about where He wants you to invest it for Him.**

**In closing let me say that if you’re not sure what ministry the Lord has called you to then just begin to do the things listed here in Isaiah 61. Remember, the early Church was active on the streets with evangelism and helping the poor. They also had a widow’s fund where they helped the widows of the church and this is an area that is sorely needed today because I don’t know of one church that does this.**

**Be about the Lord’s business; invest your time and money wisely in the Kingdom of God and make a decision today that you will be one of those who not only “grieves” over Zion and intercedes for her but also a person who is determined to do something about this and change things.**

**In June of 1997, the Holy Spirit gently awakened me one morning in Helena, Montana, and He said: “The world is waiting for a *true* demonstration of the Gospel.” Make a quality decision for the Lord Jesus today that you will be such a demonstration.**

**Maranatha!**

