**Isaiah 35:4-7 Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”**

**5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
6Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, *There shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.**

We’re in Isaiah 35 tonight. It’s my intent, if the Lord will allow, to finish Isaiah 35 in our next evening service. Many times, we’re tempted to assume, to just take for granted, that we will be here for the next service, that there will be another opportunity, that somehow we know what will come; yet, James 4:13-17 warns us of this - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. We must always remember that tomorrow is not promised… so, when we know what’s right and we fail to do it, James pronounces this sin. We sin in what we do not do as well as in what we do.

 Isaiah, 750 years before Christ begins His ministry, gives us yet another prophesy, verifying and validating the Jesus we believe in! In our scripture, we read of the miracles that the Messiah will bring – the wonders He will work. He’ll work wonders, not in secret, not in dark rooms where no one can see, but out in the open for all to see. In Matthew 11:4-6, Jesus answers John the Baptist’s disciples when asked if He is the Coming One - Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” Jesus is saying – I Am the Coming One – I Am the fulfillment John.

 Let’s look at verse 4 - Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” The very Word of God, the Son of the Holy Trinity, has come. Might it be that, among others, John is the fearful hearted here that Jesus is telling to be strong, do not fear. John is in prison. John is being threatened. In Matthew 14, the story is told of John the Baptist being beheaded. Herodias despises him. As Jesus speaks to John’s disciples, giving them a message to take back, might it be that Jesus is telling them to tell John to st ay strong in the Faith, believe!

In the last part of verse 4, it says He will come and save you. In Luke 19:9-10, when Jesus is eating with Zacchaeus, it says - And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” The time for vengeance will come. The time that God will bring His Wrath to bear on this earth will come… but first, Jesus came to save… God wants none to perish, but all to have everlasting life. Is there someone you’ve been putting off talking to who needs to meet Jesus? Might you be in their path to light their way? Don’t wait on the pastor to do it! God gives us all that assignment!

 Verse 5 - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Do we see any examples of the eyes of the blind being opened in Jesus ministry? Sure we do! Mark 10, we see an example. Blind Bartimaeus was begging by the road, he called to Jesus, asked for his sight - Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. His Faith made him well, but he later was thrown out of the synagogue – He had a verse 4 moment and had to be strong and not fear!

 Do we see any ears being opened? Sure we do! Mark 7, starting in verse 31, Jesus had a deaf mute brought to Him. Jesus placed His fingers in the man’s ears, said Ephphatha – meaning “be opened”, be unstopped, and verse 35 says - Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. Take a minute and appreciate that miracle. Anyone who has suffered deafness knows that you don’t just speak plainly – speech therapy, relearning to speak. But Jesus is the Master of complete miracles! We see it here.

 Verse 6 - Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. Do we see Jesus healing the lame? Sure we do – In John 5, we meet a man, by the Pool of Bethesda, who has been lame for 38 years. 38 years of not using his legs. Muscle deteriorates after just a few days – 38 years, his legs must have been withered and hopelessly weak. Yet, when he meets our Jesus, the Jesus we serve tonight, he asks to be healed and Jesus, the Master of complete miracles, in verse 8 and 9 says “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. Not after physical therapy, not after months of rehab. Jesus says walk – and the man walks! Peter heals in Jesus name in Acts 3:8 – The man, lame from his mothers womb, leaps up and walks. Such is the power of our God!

 And the tongue of the dumb sing. In Matthew 9:32, we see a man mute and demon possessed. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed 33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. I’ve no doubt I’d be singing praises to Jesus for casting out that demon and making me whole again. In Luke 18:43, we see a blind man who followed Jesus glorifying God. Even when Jesus told those He touched to be silent, they still told what they knew. And so it must be with us! Jesus healed us of our disease and has set aside an address in heaven. It should be that we can’t keep our mouths shut about all He’s done for us, healing our condition.

 Finally, verse 7, Isaiah speaks of the life giving water that will come with the Messiah. Listen to John 7:37-39 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Jesus pronounces Himself the source of the Holy Spirit, the Living Waters, that all who thirst can come and drink. No matter the wilderness of sin we find ourselves in, call on Jesus and we will receive. But not only will we receive, out of our hearts will flow the river of living water as well. Our hearts, our tongues become a source - our willingness to step out and talk with our children, grandchildren, neighbors, to become a witness for Jesus is a beacon to the lost that Jesus is seeking.

 Isaiah prophesied. Jesus fulfilled. Because of Him, we are no longer spiritually blind, now we see; no longer spiritually deaf, now we hear; no longer spiritually lame, now we leap; no longer spiritually dumb, now we sing. When we find Jesus, we are healed, just as those we read of in the Bible. When we confess Him, we receive the Living Water. We must not keep it to ourselves, but share it, so others may be healed who hear it.