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Sermon Notes

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Christ's Passionate Zeal for the Glory of His Bride

Isaiah 62:1-12

Few moments in the life of a man are as memorable as the moment he sees his bride for the first time during their wedding...

There is a dramatic pause, and the hearts of everyone in the sanctuary rise in anticipation. Processional music starts. The doors at the back of the church swing open, and everyone rises and turns back to look. The bride, radiant in beauty, smiling, looking at her betrothed, begins her long-anticipated walk forward. For the first time that day, the bridegroom sees her and his heart swells with love and anticipation. Her physical beauty is enhanced by all the preparations she has been about since early that morning: her hair is perfect, her cosmetics flawless, her jewelry sparkling, her dress spectacular. The bridegroom's eyes drink in her glory in a way unique to the assembled throng. Soon, she will be his wife, and he will love her and be joined to her in a mysterious covenant known as marriage.

Every Christian wedding I have ever observed has followed this pattern. Ephesians 5:32 says marriage is a "profound mystery" patterned after the eternal and perfect union between Christ and his bride, the church. The consummation of that perfect union is the wedding described in Revelation 21:1-2:

Revelation 21:1-2 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea existed no longer. I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband."

A few verses later, one of the angels says to the Apostle John,

Revelation 21:9-11 "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.' He then carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high

mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, arrayed with God's glory. Her radiance was like a very precious stone, like a jasper stone, bright as crystal."

The radiance of the church, the New Jerusalem, was stunning, almost blinding. Her beauty was perfect, ready for her bridegroom, Christ Jesus, to come and take her forever. Every Christian wedding ceremony is a foretaste, a type and shadow of this final reality.

However, there is a significant difference. In our culture, the bridegroom contributes nothing to the radiant glory of the bride on her wedding day. Tradition often dictates that he not see her at all that day until those doors swing open and she begins her processional.

But the radiant beauty of the Bride of Christ, the Church, the Heavenly Zion, the New Jerusalem is **completely the work of the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ**. He found her corrupted and defiled, ugly through rebellion, defiant in her heart, spiritually dead. He redeemed her by his own blood, raised her from the dead spiritually, washed her with water through the word, in order that he might present her to himself as a radiant bride, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless in his sight (Ephesians 1:7, 5:25-27). Throughout every generation of Church history, Christ has been preparing his elect in the same way, little by little preparing his Bride for the Wedding Day. Every beam of her glory on that day will be his, every sparkle of radiance, every holy aspiration and passionate desire for him he worked in her heart by his Holy Spirit. He has been preparing his bride to be glorious for two millennia, and he's not finished yet.

When she is completed, she will *descend from heaven*, coming down from God perfect. She will be a work of heavenly power by Almighty God; all her glory will be his. And when the New Heaven and New Earth finally come, they will shine with the glory of God. But nothing in that new creation will be more glorious than the bride of Christ! She will be the crown of her husband (as Proverbs 12:4 says), the "fullness of the One who fills all things in every way." (Ephesians 1:23)

Isaiah 62 is a brief description of the relentless passion Jesus Christ has for the glory of Zion. As we've already noted, **"Zion" is the New Jerusalem, the people of God, the elect, ransomed from every nation on earth**

I. Christ's Passionate Zeal for Zion's Glory (vs. 1)

A. Christ's Relentless Proclamation for Zion's Sake

Isaiah 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

1. It is vital for us to read Isaiah 62:1 with its FIRST PERSON voice properly... someone is speaking passionately about his commitment to ZION'S GLORY
2. In the last chapter, we saw the same kind of FIRST PERSON speaking

Isaiah 61:1-2 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, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor

3. While in both cases, we might think it was Isaiah the prophet who was speaking, actually we learned from Luke 4 that Jesus said the prophecy was about HIM
 - a. Jesus read that very section of Isaiah, and said

Luke 4:21 "Today, in your hearing, this scripture is fulfilled."

- b. The words "the Spirit of the Lord is UPON ME, because the Lord has ANOINTED ME to preach good news to the poor..."... these words were effectively Christ's words, given to his secretary Isaiah by the Holy Spirit to write down in the scroll seven centuries before Jesus was born
- c. Jesus speaks from the ancient scroll in Isaiah 61... how the Lord has anointed him to PREACH GOOD NEWS to the poor

- d. Now, in Isaiah 62, we should take the same approach... this is Jesus speaking again, saying that he will never stop preaching good news, never stop speaking, never be silent until Zion is perfectly radiant and glorious
- e. If we do that, this magnificent chapter COMES ALIVE!!

Isaiah 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

- f. It is JESUS who will not keep silent, it is JESUS who will not remain quiet, but he will KEEP SPEAKING to Zion, to Jerusalem until her righteousness shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a blazing torch!

Just as Christ's mission in Isaiah 61 was primarily one of proclamation, so also here. Christ will not "keep silent" or "keep still" because his bride is not yet perfect; some elect have not yet been saved; other elect have not yet been glorified spiritually; none of the elect have received their resurrection bodies. So there is massive work still to be done on Zion until her glory is perfected, as described in Revelation 21.

- g. But it is not just Jesus who cannot keep silent about Zion's glory...

Later in this chapter, he will post watchmen on Jerusalem's walls and command them to give themselves no rest and to give God no rest until Zion is the praise of all the earth. So the Christian reader of Isaiah 62 is drawn quickly into the zeal of Jesus for his bride, the church, and challenged to be every bit as passionate for her consummation as he is, for there is much work still to do.

B. Christ's Goal: Zion's Radiant Salvation

1. According to verse 1, Jesus is going to KEEP SPEAKING His holy word to his bride until she is perfect in his salvation

Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through

the word, ²⁷ *and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

2. The goal that Jesus has is plain: radiant, glorious salvation... a shining of the bride with the glory of God

Revelation 21:9-11 *"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

And again, later in the chapter:

Revelation 21:23 *The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.*

- i) The New Jerusalem is described as having streets of transparent gold and its walls made up of twelve different types of transparent colored gemstones
 - ii) Everything is radiant with the glory of God in Christ
 - iii) This is the future glory of the people of God
COLLECTIVELY
- b. And the glory of each member of the Bride of Christ is also personally, individually radiant as well

Matthew 13:43 *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*

3. In Isaiah 62:1, Jesus is saying his heart is BURNING WITH ZEAL to keep on speaking his holy word until Zion is perfect, fully righteous, holy and pure in his sight, free from all darkness and defilement
4. That is going on RIGHT NOW in this sanctuary by the ministry of the Word and the power of the Spirit

5. It is going on all over the world, as pastors and teachers speak the Word of God to the elect, purifying them gradually from the defilements of sin, calling them to walk in the light as Christ is in the light
6. Behind the ministry of every Spirit-filled man of God who is preaching a true, bible-based sermon this morning is the zeal of Jesus for his bride:

Isaiah 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

What's even more amazing is how DARK we were when he found us:

Colossians 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 5:8-14 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ... It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

As we are progressively made more and more radiant in holiness, the unconverted in the nations will be drawn to the light of our glory

II. Zion's Glory on Display for the Nations (vs. 2-5)

A. Zion's Radiant Glory Seen by the Nations

Isaiah 62:2-3 The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

1. As the watching world sees the elect converted, they are amazed at the transformation
2. Saul of Tarsus is a prime example

- a. A violent man, a blasphemer, a persecutor and killer of the church
- b. He was proud, ambitious, covetous, and energetic for his own glory
- c. But suddenly, the heavenly light of Christ's resurrection glory shone around him on the Road to Damascus and he fell to the ground
- d. Immediately, Saul went from destroying a church he hated to building the church he loved... courageously, he preached Christ Jesus in the synagogue of Damascus and the people were astounded

Galatians 1:23-24 "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

- e. This Paul began to proclaim the glory of God in Christ crucified and resurrected... and elect from Gentile city after Gentile city... were drawn powerfully to the light of this message... the light of the Heavenly Zion, the New Jerusalem, which shone from his changed life and his powerful words

3. This is exactly what Jesus meant when he said

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

4. As Isaiah said in our text:

Isaiah 62:2-3 The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

B. Zion's Population Ever-Increasing

1. As the true church of Jesus Christ grows and becomes more and more glorious, more and more of the elect from every nation will be drawn to her glory
2. They will forsake their ways of darkness and their wicked idolatries and flee the wrath to come
3. They will come into the light of the truth as he is in the light
4. And Zion will get larger and larger

Isaiah 62:4 No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married.

- a. These images hearken to the total desolation of the Promised Land after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians
- b. Most of the people died by the sword, famine, or plague
- c. A small remnant was exiled to Babylon
- d. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet that was left, sat on the overlooking mountains of surrounding Jerusalem and looked down upon her in her desolation

Lamentations 1:1 How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!

- e. But Isaiah looks ahead with prophetic eye to something far more glorious than the mere repopulating of the Promised Land and the rebuilding of the destroyed earthly city of Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah
- f. Yes, that would happen... the land would no longer be called Deserted and Desolate... but the restoration of 42,000 Jews to the Promised Land was a small and inadequate fulfillment of the glory of Zion spoken of here
- g. The initial wave of settlers were in dire straits because they had no wall to protect them... it was so bad that Nehemiah wept when he read the report his brother sent to him

- h. And the rubble of the city was so bad he could scarcely ride a donkey around the ruined city
 - i. And even when it was rebuilt and so also the temple, the glory of the city was GREATLY DIMINISHED from what it had been in the lavish days of Solomon, when he made silver as plentiful as the stones of the street
 - j. No, the glory of Zion spoken of here is INFINITELY GREATER than anything that has ever happened physically in Jerusalem
 - k. It speaks of the building of the church of Jesus Christ by the spread of the gospel, and the populating of the Heavenly Jerusalem by a multitude greater than anyone can count from every tribe and nation on earth
5. This is the vast streaming of the nations into Zion already prophesied in Isaiah 2

Isaiah 2:2-3 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD

And this vast populating of the Heavenly Zion comes simply by hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ with faith... thus are the words here fulfilled:

Isaiah 62:4 No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married.

C. The Lord Delights in Zion's Glory

1. The word "Hephzibah" means literally "My Delight is In Her"... God speaking his infinite delight in the Bride may perfect by the saving work of Christ and the Spirit

2. The word “Beulah” means “Married”... so the text uses a marriage analogy for the land... God will take perfect delight in the people and the land
3. This speaks of his saving intent not just toward the people but also toward the earth... there will be a New Heavens and a New Earth... and all the groaning and death and defilement caused by sin will be removed forever... there will be a perfect earth that God will delight in at every moment and lavishly care for
4. Far better even than the words spoken over the original Promised Land by Moses:

Deuteronomy 11:9-12 a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. ¹¹ But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. ¹² It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

The perfect care of the Lord God for the New Earth will be far greater... no curse at all, no thorns and thistles, no drought or famine; nothing but lavish provision and perfection worked by the Lord

D. Zion's Sons Delight in Zion's Glory

Isaiah 62:5 As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

1. Not only will God delight in Zion—both the people, the city, and the land—so also will Zion's sons as well
 - a. Note in verse 5 how BOTH God and Zion's sons will equally delight in her beauty and marry her
 - b. This is the consummation of every pure love any human has ever had for another... we will love the people of God and the city of God and the land of God like he does

Many people all over the world have a deep and emotional tie to the land of their birth... the “fatherland” or “Mother Russia”... they love the soil, the rolling hills, the flowering trees... when they have been gone for a long time and finally return, they might fall on the ground and kiss it... this longing for home and country is consummated in the love the sons of Zion will have for the New Earth

- c. NOTE how GOD will rejoice over us in perfect happiness like a bridegroom delighting in the staggering beauty of his bride

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

- d. And we will feel the same way about God and about each other as well!!
2. Our hearts will swell with joy and lavish peace as our eyes drink in the glory of all three—the people will be perfectly radiant, the city a soaring glorious majesty of architecture, and the New Earth drinking in the blessing of God continually
 3. What will such a world look like? How many eons will it take for us just to begin to explore its perfections and delight in all the details of the New Creation? Thankfully, we will have forever to do it!
 4. BUT this delight is not merely a future thing!
 5. True Christians LOVE the Church RIGHT NOW!
 - a. We are committed to evangelism and missions, to see the elect Sons and Daughters of Zion come into her and beautify her
 - b. We are also committed to the holiness of existing Christians... that we ourselves will live lives worthy of our calling

Internal journey of holiness for each of God’s people makes Zion radiant in glory

The external journey of evangelism and missions makes Zion larger and larger and more glorious as well

We, the Sons and Daughters of Zion, need to have the same zeal for the glory of Zion that Jesus does for his bride!!

III. Relentless Watchmen Posted on Zion's Walls (vs. 6-9)

A. The Lord Appoints and Charges Watchmen

Isaiah 62:6-7 I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

1. Here the Lord calls on people to devote themselves to the glory of Zion
2. The watchmen posted on the walls are a metaphor concerning the protection of a vulnerable city
3. The city sleeps at night and is thus vulnerable
4. The watchmen posted on the walls are not permitted sleep, watching continually for anyone that would approach the city and perhaps threaten her
5. Yet here, the watchmen are never allowed to rest... they can never slumber DAY OR NIGHT!!!
6. Furthermore, they are not allowed to give the LORD any rest either... for these watchmen posted on the walls of Jerusalem are called to relentless intercession for the glory of Zion
7. This seems plainly a call to PASSIONATE, PERSISTENT INTERCESSORY PRAYER for the church of Jesus Christ
 - a. This reminds us of the Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1 that they should always pray and not give up.

- b. That is the same as here:

Isaiah 62:6-7 never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

At the end of the sermon, I will apply this to us plainly, but I can't help but stop right now and ask you to look at your own prayer life for the church... do you "give yourself no rest and give him no rest" in sacrificial, passionate, faith-filled prayer for both the HOLINESS of the existing church members, and the powerful spread of the gospel both here and to the ends of the earth? Do you pray persistently for these things? Do you ever deprive yourselves of sleep to do it?

B. The Lord Swears to Make Zion Prosperous

1. God goes beyond this command to the WATCHMEN on the walls
2. He actually promises to make Zion prosperous beyond their meager efforts

Isaiah 62:8-9 The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; ⁹ but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."

3. The prosperity of Zion is something only God can work by the power of his right hand and his mighty arm
4. Thus his oath here in verse 8 is by his own omnipotent power... as though the Lord swears by himself
5. God trusts only one thing for Zion's ultimate security and protection: His own mighty power... and that power is immeasurable, indeed it is infinite!!

Isaiah 14:26-27 This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. ²⁷ For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

Isaiah 52:10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

6. God here promises specifically to give Zion material prosperity through absolute security... her grain will never again be plundered by her enemies, neither will other nations drink the wine for which they have toiled
7. Their day of danger will be over... absolute peace and prosperity will fill the New Heaven, the New Earth, the New Jerusalem...
8. Isaiah 60 and Revelation makes it plain by speaking of the lavish riches of the nations rolling INTO the gates of the city, nothing being plundered OUT OF the Gates:

Isaiah 60:11 Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations--their kings led in triumphal procession.

Revelation 21:23-26 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

9. The peace and prosperity of the Heavenly World will be immeasurable, guaranteed by the awesome power of the right arm of God which will sweep away Zion's enemies forever:

Isaiah 30:30 The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.

10. To put it plainly, the security of the Heavenly world is guaranteed because all of Zion's enemies will have been defeated and swept away forever!

IV. Zion's People Redeemed to Build Zion (vs. 10-12)

A. The Highway of Zion's Construction

Isaiah 62:10 Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.

1. The highway of the Lord is an image Isaiah has used again and again
2. It pictures the need for TRAVELLING in order to get to Zion... like the pilgrimages of old, when all the Jews would travel three times a year to get to Jerusalem for the annual festivals... or also like the journeying the returning exiles did from Babylon under Cyrus the Great to return to the Promised Land
3. But here, the highway is made not for the Jews alone but for the Gentiles... raise up a HIGHWAY FOR THE NATIONS... a banner is raised up for the elect from the distant lands of all the earth
4. They will travel from the distant shores and the far away islands and the foreign coastlands to populate Zion
5. There is a vast MOVEMENT here... and yet, we know that this movement now is SPIRITUAL alone... unlike the Muslims, there is no need for a physical pilgrimage to Mecca or for us to Jerusalem
6. Jesus himself said as much to the Samaritan woman at the well:

John 4:20-24 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

7. The journey to the Heavenly Zion is spiritual... made through faith in Jesus Christ

John 14:4-6 You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

B. The Promise of Zion's Consummation

1. The chapter ends with a marvelous promise to us that someday, Zion will most certainly be consummated with glory

Isaiah 62:11-12 The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" ¹² They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

2. God Almighty has made a kingly proclamation to the ends of the earth
3. This proclamation is to the ELECT... the "daughter of Zion"... and she is told "BEHOLD, your Savior comes!" This is nothing less than the glory and perfection of the Second Coming of Christ... he will come with his reward... his reward is the consummation of our salvation... we will finally see him face to face, and we will be transformed into his perfect likeness, and we will be with him forever
4. Zion will be perfect then... called "the HOLY PEOPLE, the REDEEMED of the Lord"
 - a. No we were not always perfect
 - b. We needed to be redeemed from our sins... and it was Jesus' blood that redeemed us
 - c. But at the Second Coming of Christ, our salvation will be forever complete
 - d. The radiant glory of Zion will be perfect... the City will forever be populated with 100% of the elect

V. Applications

A. Unconverted Elect: Hear the Plain Gospel of Salvation

1. The only way to be included in this amazing heavenly Zion is to hear the word of Jesus NOW

2. Jesus is calling to you now... saying to repent and forsake the sins that have defiled you
3. He is telling you that his blood, shed on the cross, is sufficient for your redemption forever
4. He is welcoming you in if you will only trust in him
5. Flee the wrath to come! Come to the safety of the heavenly Zion! Come to Christ! Find peace and security and spiritual richness there!

Christians:

B. Meditate on the Zeal, the Passionate Zeal Jesus Has for the Bride's Glory

1. Jesus can never rest... in one sense he gives himself no rest and he gives us no rest until we are HOLY
2. He keeps speaking his word to us, keeps addressing our sins, keeps sending forth his messengers (like me) filled with the Holy Spirit, to warn you to give up your sins
3. Meditate on these words again

Isaiah 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

4. Jesus is speaking to you now!!

1 Peter 1:16 "Be holy because I am holy!"

C. Husbands: Have the Same Zeal for the Holiness of Your Wife

Ephesians 5:25-28 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives

1. Be faithful to pray for her development as a Christian... pray for her quiet times and her prayer times
2. Meet with her over the Word... disciple her... help her in her weak areas... celebrate her strengths in the Lord
3. Be a Christlike husband to your wife in the ministry of the Word

D. Set Your Hearts on Things Above

1. The whole chapter presents the future glory of Zion in ways that few chapters do
2. Follow the commands of Colossians 3

Colossians 3:1-4 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

3. Meditate much on Revelation 21-22 as it depicts the consummation of the New Jerusalem
4. Don't get depressed at the evil condition of this present world
5. Don't be worried about the things of this world... the pursuit of wealth, anxiety over possessions or physical health
6. Christ is your life!! Your future glory is hid with him!

E. Be Involved in Evangelism and Missions

1. We are called on to care as much about the future glory of the people of Zion, the city of Zion, and the new land that is coming as God does
2. The best way to show that is with consistent involvement in evangelism and missions

3. Evangelism: something we do right here in Durham and Raleigh and our own communities... sharing the gospel with lost people in our own language and culture
 4. Missions: something done cross culturally... like the Gujarati in Morrisville and unreached people groups with the IMB
- F. Intercessory Prayer!! Give yourselves no rest and give him no rest!!
1. I already mentioned this in the sermon, so I have not much more to say
 2. But these words challenge us to be persistent and faith-filled in intercessory prayer for the future glory of Christ's church
 3. We are FAR TOO LAZY in prayer... prayer is hard work!
 4. Practical suggestion: get up one hour earlier than you usually do one day this week and pray for the church, for evangelism and missions... begin by