

September 24, 2017

God With Us
Isaiah 11.1-10

The point of Christmas is things are not as they should be or as they will be when the promise of Christmas is fulfilled. The promise of Christmas:

- The universe will be restored. The future is good and it is secure.
- Both Justice and Mercy will be fully established in the creation.
- God's Light shines in the darkness of our world and our lives and it does so in the barren places first.
- God is with us: first as a baby then as a man and now as the Holy Spirit.

In the situation behind Isaiah 11.1-10 all seems well on the surface but at a deeper level things are beyond saving.

Verse 1:

- God will judge the royal line and cut down the tree of David. He will go all the way back to the root to raise up a new deliverer. This the judgment and redemption of God.

Verses 2:

- The Spirit will "rest" on this new deliverer forever. He "rested" on Moses, Saul and David but only for a short time.
- It's the Sabbath come to life.
- The Spirit is known by certain things:

He is the Spirit of wisdom & insight

He is the Spirit of counsel & valor

He is the Spirit of devotion & reverence for the Lord

- Verses 3-5:

The branch will rule in faithfulness and righteousness from the inside out.

- Verses 6-10:

He will bring God's shalom to the creation

God is With US through the Holy Spirit:

- Jesus “baptizes” us into the Spirit ((Matt. 3.11; Mk. 1.8; Luke 3.16; Jn. 1.33)
- Jesus said many things about the Spirit:
 - Living water (Jn. 7.38)
 - Like the wind (Jn. 3.8)
 - He will give us words to say in difficult moments (Mk. 13.11)
 - He will teach us about Jesus, righteousness and sin (Jn. 14.17-18, 26; 15.26-27; 16.12-14)

1. The Holy Spirit gives direction
(2 Cor. 3.18)
2. The Holy Spirit requires our courage .
(Luke 4,1, 14)
3. The Holy Spirit provokes our repentance .