

Expectations for the Gospel

As both Pastor and Priesthood of All Believers, and since the foundation of His Church, Jesus has sent Messengers to proclaim the Good News about Himself. In Isaiah 52:7-10, we see what Isaiah, a messenger of God in his day, was to proclaim to Jerusalem, ultimately pointing to the Lord (Jesus) who was to come. The New Testament witness agrees that Mt. Zion and Jerusalem are types pointing to the very Person of Jesus, Who is both God and Man dwelling together in His own Person – Heb 12:22-28).

In Isaiah 52:7-10, and because of Who Jesus is and who we are in Him, I see some pointed things we should expect to hear proclaimed and embrace whenever we gather around the Gospel (Jesus!):

- **We should hear “Peace!”** Pastor, when was the last time your Gospel message was filled with something like “Peace to You from God our Father, The Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit!” from beginning to end? People, when was the last time you demanded such peace be proclaimed to you from beginning to end in your local gathering of the Church?
- **We should hear “Good News!”** Pastor, when was the last time you were sent to proclaim the purely Good News of Who Jesus is and who people are in Him and were also intent not to preach anything close to bad news?! People, when was the last time you demanded such Good News be proclaimed to you by the Gospel messengers in your local gathering of the Church?
- **We should hear “Salvation!” announced (as a fact, not a theory or potentiality!)** In other words, Pastor, we should be saying to people that Jesus is (already!) their Salvation. That’s Who He is in His being both God and Man in one Person and what verse 10 in Isaiah 52 is pointing to! Jesus bared His arm before the nations as a real human being who could be seen and touched (and still can be) and that’s what Christmas was all about! People, when was the last time you demanded such Good News be proclaimed to you in your local gathering of the Church?

I predict that once Pastors again see *this Lord* in plain sight (and are encouraged by the Priesthood to proclaim Him and only Him!) not only will those pastors lift up their voices and sing for joy, but everyone will break into singing at the comfort of the Lord in His redemption of the ruined (and perhaps start dancing too!)

~ *Tim Brassell*