

## 2-Beauty for Ashes

1/9/22

### INTRO:

I. → **Isaiah 61:1-3**

*61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim 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  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
→ to bestow on them a crown of **beauty**  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of **joy**  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of **praise**  
instead of a spirit of **despair**.*

II. **MY FIRST FUNERAL—CLAIR OLSON**

### Body:

I. **Beauty for Ashes**

*A crown of beauty instead of ashes*

Heb (*p'eyr tachat epher*) beauty for ashes (paranomasia)

A. The Spirit helps us find beauty in the midst of grief.

1) Grabbing ahold of regrets and disappointments

2) **Ecclesiastes 3:11-12**

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity  
in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from  
beginning to end.*

3) **DAD'S RADIO—ROYAL HAWAIIAN**

**Armed Forces Radio Network—"Concert by the Sea" (1960's)**

- B. If we are going to heal from loss we cannot be afraid to remember.
- 1) Don't be afraid to laugh, don't be afraid to cry
  - 2) **Matthew 5:3-4**  
*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted."*
  - 3) WIND RIVER—TAKE THE PAIN

## II. Joy for Mourning

The oil of joy instead of **mourning**

Heb (*shemen sasown*) oil of gladness

- A. The most important thing we can do is impart affirmation.
- 1) **Job 16:3-5**  
*Will your long-winded speeches never end?  
What ails you that you keep on arguing?  
I also could speak like you,  
if you were in my place;  
I could make fine speeches against you  
and shake my head at you.  
But my mouth would encourage you;  
comfort from my lips would bring you relief.*
  - 2) MINISTERING AT FUNERAL PLANNING MEETINGS
    - a) Job's question "why" was a cry for help
    - b) You are a good person, you didn't deserve this
- B. Some of our deepest revelations come in the process of mourning.
- 1) **Ecclesiastes 7:2-3**  
*It is better to go to a house of mourning  
than to go to a house of feasting,  
for death is the destiny of every man;  
the living should take this to heart.  
Sorrow is better than laughter,  
because a sad face is good for the heart.*
  - 2) THE GIFT THAT WILLIAM HAS GIVEN ME

## III. Praise for Despair

A garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair

Heb (*kahah*) to be weak, heavy, dark, depressed

- A. In every season there is opportunity to grow closer to God.
- 1) **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**  
*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
  - 2) **THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF WORSHIP**
    - a) Endorphins released with bring feelings of pleasure.
    - b) Oxytocin released which alleviates anxiety and stress and lessens feelings of depression and loneliness.
    - c) Lowers cortisol which causes depression and weight gain.
    - d) According to one 2005 study, group singing "can produce satisfying and therapeutic sensations even when the sound produced by the vocal instrument is of mediocre quality."
    - e) "Worship is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one thing in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed."—  
*Time Magazine*
- B. One day we will have no reason to grieve.
- 1) **Revelation 21:4**  
*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Isaiah 25:8)*
  - 2) **CRYING ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

**OTHER SCRIPTURES:**

Psalms 30:11-12

You turned my wailing into dancing;  
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,  
that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.