

December 2, 2022

[Isaiah 61:1-4](#)

As I read this passage, I can't help but be reminded of our community group study, "Undistracted." In the last session, we were reminded to stay focused on our purpose, and this passage alludes to that purpose as well. We are called to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the naked, the sick, those in prison, widows, and orphans.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Just as Isaiah is telling us to proclaim the good news to the poor, the broken-hearted, captives and prisoners. In the Christmas season, so many of us are blessed with the presence of friends, family, and loved ones, and it's easy to forget the broken people we encounter every day. I know I want to try and be the person Jesus calls us to be and have my "head on a swivel" with eyes out for ways I can care for God's children. It might be a smile, a kind word, an afternoon or evening volunteering, or serving those we are called toward.

Let's all remember this as we walk through Advent together.

Lord, I pray that you would give us all eyes to see the opportunities to care for your flock and fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah of proclaiming your good news. May we all be the oaks of righteousness we are called to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sam Martin