



A NEW NAME

Isaiah 56:1 – 8, Acts 8:34 – 35 (ESV)

December 15, 2024

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MESSAGE NOTES

Invitations to Align Our Hearts with God's Heart:

- **Discovering God's heart for the vulnerable**

Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon My salvation will come, and My righteousness be revealed." – Isaiah 56:1 (ESV)

... because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. The blessing of Him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban ... and I searched out the cause of Him whom I did not know. – Job 29:12 – 16 (ESV)

- **Discovering the power of relationships built on God's grace**

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from His people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." – Isaiah 56:3 (ESV)

For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, who choose the things that please Me and hold fast My covenant, I will give in My house and within My walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off." – Isaiah 56:4 – 5 (ESV)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor ... But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah ... and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. – Luke 4:18, 25 – 28 (ESV)

- **Discovering our purpose by living for a new name**

For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who ... hold fast My covenant, I will give ... a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. – Isaiah 56:4 – 5 (ESV)

By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? – Isaiah 53:8 (ESV)

"... About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" – Acts 8:34 (ESV)

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. – Acts 8:35 (ESV)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: What is one of the best Christmas gifts you ever received and why?
- How might God be leading you to have a greater heart for the vulnerable?
- The Bible often mentions reaching out to and caring for "*the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and the poor.*" Give some examples of what these life situations might look like in our world today.
- What does it mean to build relationships on the foundation of God's grace instead of on some other foundation?
- Pastor Jon said, "*A church that understands grace will be a church that is increasingly knocking down walls that divide us*" through the power of Christ. What wall is God leading you to knock down in your life this Christmas, and how?
- What changes in life when we begin to live for Christ instead of for our own glory? What might that look like for you as you prepare to celebrate Christmas?
- Read Job 29:12 – 16. Sometimes God brings people into our path whom we do not know by name, calling us to care for them. What are some examples?
- Isaiah 56 points us to the true hope of Christ that came on Christmas morning. How can you soak in the hope and joy of Christ this Christmas?
- Pray for an outpouring of God's power in the lives of people at our Christmas Eve services. Take some time to pray for some people around you who are facing challenges and feeling vulnerable.