

Sermon: *The Beauty of Destiny's Children*

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5 and Revelation 21:1-5

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Irwyn Ince

Potential Icebreaker: Recall a beautiful wedding you've been to. What elements made that day/service beautiful?

1. Read Isaiah 62:1-5. What stands out to you? Read Revelation 21:1-5. What stands out to you?
2. Beauty is a key theme in Isaiah 62:1-5. Revelation 21:1-5 describes the truth of what is coming. These verses help us realize that what our senses currently experience is not the full picture. How might you work to hold a double vision – a vision of what is true here on earth today with a vision of what is coming?
3. These passages stir within us a deep longing for beauty. We long for it, but it also equips us to experience beauty today. What in your life is beautiful?
4. Read Psalm 13 and Revelation 6:10. The question, “How long?” echoes throughout Scripture. Join the writers of Scripture in asking this question – what realities in your life cause you to cry out, “How long, O Lord?” right now?
5. Sin twists our longing for beauty. We begin to feel that it is our responsibility to make all things new. We cease to trust in the Lord and instead turn to our own resources and strength. How are you tempted to create fleeting beauty out of fear that Jesus’ promise (“Behold, I am making all things new”) won’t come true?
6. There is a tension inherent in the Christian life. Jesus calls us to come and see, and then commands us to go and do likewise (Luke 10:37). Looking at the picture of God’s work given to us in Isaiah 62:1-5 and Revelation 21:1-5, what are tangible ways we can live for beauty in the nasty now?
7. Revelation 21:4 promises the end of tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain. But today’s tears, death, and pain are not wasted. How does a view of the new heavens and the new earth equip you to live courageously and honestly today?

Close your time together in prayer. Ask the LORD to open your eyes to behold the beauty around you. Confess together the areas in which you don't trust God's promises in Isaiah 62 and Revelation 21. Pray that the LORD might teach you how to look and see his redemptive, creative work. Pray that you would do as Isaiah 62:1 teaches – that you would not keep quiet, that you would not be silent. Ask for boldness to proclaim the beauty of God in your family, with your roommates, at work. Ask Jesus to come quickly and make all things new.