**‘The Watch: Kingdom Joy for Waiting Hearts’  
Message #3 – ‘Kingdom Joy’**

**December 17th, 2017**

**Text: Isaiah 52:1-12**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

Winnetka Bible Church

1. **Advent Series…‘The Watch’**
   1. **Hope…Love…Joy…Peace**
   2. **Illus…**The Paton’s deliverance
   3. **Context** for Isaiah 51/52
      * **Encouragement to the remnant** of Israel to trust in God for deliverance. This is both in their Babylonian Exile (70 years) and their present dispersion…it’s a ‘look ahead’ and it sees an actual work of grace (51:22,23)
      * **A ‘Long Bondage’** – the Remnant are now called to ***‘awake…arise’*** and put on beautiful garments appropriate to its future prosperity and…rejoice! (52)
   * **Ques.** ***How do we pursue joy in our waiting for God?***
2. **The Rebuke, (*‘Awake…shake yourself from the dust and arise…’* 1-2)** 
   1. **Called three times…*’Listen to me…give attention…listen…’*** (1,4,7)
   * Zion’s punishment has now ended – now judgment comes to those who judged
   * ***‘Cup of wrath’*** – meaning in Scripture (c/f 51:23)
   * Consider the miracle of Abraham and Sarah (c/f 51:1,2) – week #1

* **Apply:** You came from nowhere (51:1) this ‘waiting’ idea is here again…
  1. **Exhorted three times…**
  + ***‘O arm of the Lord’***, (51:9) – He has been faithful in the past…He will be in the future
  + ***‘Awake, awake stand up…’*** (51:13-17) - Remember Who I am…And Who you are! ***‘You are my people’*** (16)
  + ***‘Awake, awake put on strength…’*** (52:1) - so…wake up. **Meaning:** ‘Image’ of Isa. 51;Do the opposite of Babylon (Chapter 47)
  1. **The Set Up**
  + Here Jerusalem is to ***‘put on your garments of splendor’***, ***‘shake off your dust’***, ***‘sit enthroned’*** (52:1-2) - why did this seem so unbelievable?
  + **Illus.** of sowing, harvest, tree rings/seasons (uninterrupted growth would be ideal?)
* The reality and rhythm of your spiritual life…and God’s Kingdom/God’s Church

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1. **The Rescue (’...*therefore My people will know my Name…’* 3-6)**
   1. **A Crazy Exchange**
   * You sold yourself for no advantage!
   * Eg. Of Egypt/Asshur – *‘It looks bad’* – Yahweh
   * But…***’My people will know My Name…’* (6) =** God is present and will carry out His redemption and His glory will be seen and known
   1. **God will deliver His people**
   * God’s honor is at stake because the nations claim He cannot deliver his people (52:5-6)
   * C/f Matt.1:21; Lk.4:38-44 – Jesus, our deliverer pictured in God’s love for His people

* **Apply:** ‘*Wait on the Lord’*

1. **The Response, *‘…break forth together into singing…the Lord has bared His holy arm…’* (7-10)**
   1. **A Dramatic Scene (7-10)**
   * The Prophet sees ‘certain ones’ bringing Good News (7,8) – sent by God!

* **Apply:** You have to know it to tell it!
  + Listen – your God actually reigns! (7) - In spite of present appearances
  + Now it’s the turn of the ‘sentinels/watchmen’ - Let the songs begin! (8,9)
* **Apply:** Calling/recounting to one another truth about God…something compelling happens…
  + But, He will ***‘bare his holy arm’*** (52:10) and deliver them…Messianic…***‘all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God’*** (10)
  1. **What is left for the People of God to do? (10-12)**
  + Lay hold of the promises of God – pursuing God together
  + God calls on his people to ***‘depart…’*** - knowing God will be both before/behind (52:11-12)
* **Apply:** Trusting God, in joy, as we wait for His deliverance

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