

Friday, February 5, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

This weekend I'll be continuing the seven-part sermon series on N.T. Wright's book, *Broken Signposts*. Our next broken signpost value is 'beauty.' There are significant ways that beauty is broken. It truly is one of our idols. We Americans spend 352 billion on the beauty industry. Beauty was often one of the things that the Old Testament prophets attacked. Isaiah records God's displeasure with self-pampering at the expense of the poor. The prophet warned of the exile.

Isaiah 3:18-24

¹⁸ *In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents;*

¹⁹ *the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarfs;*

²⁰ *the headdresses, the armlets, the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets;*

²¹ *the signet rings and nose rings;*

²² *the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags;*

²³ *the garments of gauze, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.*

²⁴ *Instead of perfume there will be a stench; and instead of a sash, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a binding of sackcloth; instead of beauty, shame.*

In our time both men and women spend a great deal on beauty. Can we become consumed by it? Of course. This weekend I'll be talking about how God sees beauty and creates beauty in creation and in us through Christ. So, you beautiful people, tune in or walk in.

My devotion verse today was Ephesians 2:10. "*We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand.*" The Message reads, "*He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.*" Each of us has God work to do each and every day. God work is good work for others. It is self-giving and servant work. It has been prepared by God for each of us, using our gifts and talents and life situations. The goal is that we keep our eyes on Christ Jesus and always be on the lookout for doing good. It doesn't save us; it is how we reflect God's love for us into the world.

I hope to see you beautiful people this weekend either online or in person. I hope you are getting the vaccines. I continue to pray for the end of lockdowns for schools, churches, airports, etc.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin