

**Speaker** : Associate Pastor Timothy Ong  
**Sermon Title** : Beauty for Ashes  
**Text** : Isaiah 61:1, 3; John 14:1

“1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3. To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3).

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me” (John 14:1).

## Introduction

Hardship has a way of getting our attention. Pain slows us down. Very few of us, after facing a trial, come out the same way we entered in.

### A. Our hearts can be troubled

- Spiritual cause.

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. 14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him” (1Samuel 16:13-14).

- Out of our own rash commitment (Judges 11:35).

“Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon. 30 And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, 31 "then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering" (Judges 11:29-31).

“And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot go back on it” (Judges 11:35).

- We are just overwhelmed by many troublesome worries.

“And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things” (Luke 10:41).

- We are good at telling people not to worry.

“Surely you have instructed many, And you have strengthened weak hands. 4 Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees; 5 But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; It touches you, and you are troubled” (Job 4:3-5).

## B. What must happen must happen

- ‘Some things’ in life we cannot avoid.

"But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet" (Mark 13:7).

- It happened to Jesus.

When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me" (John 13:21).

He had the power to avert it. But He did not do it.

## C. If troubles in life are unavoidable, then what can we do?

- Practical advice.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).

- Spiritual advice

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1).

## Conclusion

Trouble (or rather, ‘worry over your trouble’) has a **baby**.

If you worry about your trouble long enough, it will give birth to a baby. And the baby’s name is ‘Fear’.

But God says ...

“14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”  
(Romans 8:14-18).

Jesus has adopted us, and He has given us a **brother**.  
And His name is called “**Peace**”.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Hardship has a way of getting our attention.

Pain slows us down.

Very few of us, after facing a trial, come out the same way we entered in.

Jesus understood this and attempted to prepare his disciples for the road ahead.

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1).