

A Word from the Lord

Isaiah 55:1-13; 2 Timothy 3:1-17 / Psalm 119:129-144

I. God Makes Promises

A. God makes a marvelous proposal. “Ho, *every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat*, yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” (ISAIAH 55:1)

B. Stop doing what does not and cannot satisfy. “*Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?* hearken diligently unto me, and *eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself* in fatness.” (ISAIAH 55:2)

C. Listen to God and mercy will follow. “*Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live*; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.” (ISAIAH 55:3)

D. The prophet is speaking of David’s messianic line which leads to Jesus Christ. “Behold, *I have given him for a witness* to the people, *a leader* and commander to the people.” (ISAIAH 55:4)

1. God gave Jesus to His people. “For *God so loved the world*, that *he gave his only begotten Son*, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (JOHN 3:16)

2. The Great Commission is the expression of the promised leadership. “And *Jesus* came and *spake* unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded* you: and, lo, I am with you *always, even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” (MATTHEW 28:18-20)

E. The promise is for all people, not only those already inside the people of God. “Behold, thou shalt call a nation *that* thou knowest not, and *nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee* because of the LORD thy God, and *for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.*” (ISAIAH 55:5)

II. God Demands Repentance

A. The time to respond to God is when one hears Him; there is no promise of another time in the future. “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, *call ye upon him while he is near.*” (ISAIAH 55:6)

B. Coming to God requires leaving behind the old ways of sin and rebellion. “*Let the wicked forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him *return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy* upon him; and to our God, for *he will abundantly pardon.*” (ISAIAH 55:7)

C. God does not think the way broken self-willed sinners think. “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts*, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways*, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (ISAIAH 55:8-9)

D. God's Word always accomplishes His objectives. "For *as the rain cometh* down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, *and maketh it bring forth and bud*, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**" (ISAIAH 55:10-11)

III. The Future Is Bright

A. Believers who follow Jesus follow Him into eternal joy. "For *ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace*: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands." (ISAIAH 55:12)

B. Life's curses will return to the blessings they originally were. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and *instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree*: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for *an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*" (ISAIAH 55:13)

C. The final order will reflect the Garden before the fall. "*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb*, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and *a little child shall lead them*. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and *the lion shall eat straw like the ox*. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.**" (ISAIAH 11:6-9)

D. The things which make life so miserable will not enter the new world of the final age. "And *there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth*, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: **but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**" (REVELATION 21:27)

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