
Arise

Part 3 – Our Generous God

Right at the beginning of Isaiah 55, we have this urgent invitation that sounds almost a little too good to be true, like the promises of a carnival talker or an ad agency—but these offers come, not from someone who is trying to exploit our weaknesses, but from God, who wants to save us. These promises have the backing of the one who created the universe—who is willing and able to fulfill His promises.

Isaiah is painting a picture of the radical and generous nature of a God of love. When people are revived to life in Jesus this is what they can expect to experience!

Background – Isaiah 53-54

Back in chapter 53, the prophet Isaiah, described in amazing detail 700 years ahead of time how Christ would come and suffer and bear the sins of people and die in our place and rise again. The One who knows our suffering and bore it on Himself brings an invitation for us to enter His blessing. In chapter 54, Isaiah foresees some of the great blessings that will come to God's people because the Messiah has overcome the problem of their guilt and sin (Isaiah 54:2-3).

In other words, one of the great blessings that would come to the people of God because of Christ's death and resurrection is that all the nations would be touched.

And this leads us then to this amazing invitation in Isaiah 55. If redemption is accomplished, and God's will is that the blessings of this redemption spread to all the nations, then it doesn't surprise us, that God would give this amazing invitation not just for a few, and not just for those who can pay their way, but for everyone.

Are You Thirsty?

Thirst becomes an indicator of our need – of our lack! Thirst is our natural indicator that all isn't as it should be, and we need something to come into us in order to be as we should be. It's the same thing in a spiritual sense. (Psalm 42:1)

We need to thirst for God, we need to have our own personal motivation come from our need for God.

We all find ourselves in one of two categories:

1. Thirsty and poor – If you're thirsty but have no money – it doesn't matter, the only qualifier is that you are thirsty. What God has on offer is free.
2. Seeking to find content in the world by working hard. When we are honest, we know there is a deep need and longing on the inside, no matter how self-sufficient we look on the outside.

God is inviting you today to find yourself fulfilled and satisfied in Him. (Isaiah 55:1-3; John 6:35)

What's On Offer?

The metaphor is about good, rich food that is in abundance. (Isaiah 55:2-3) But verse three gives us what the reality is behind the imagery. "Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life." It is in God that we find the life giving, nourishment and joy that brings real life to our spirits.

When we come to God, He makes a covenant with us. What kind of covenant? The same kind of covenant that He made with King David in 2 Samuel 7 – a covenant of "steadfast, sure love." This means that, when you come to God, He binds Himself by an unbreakable oath to pursue you with goodness and mercy all your days – right into eternity. (Psalm 89:30-37)

How Do I Access the Blessing?

Seek the Lord while He may be found doesn't mean God goes into hiding. It means respond when God is inviting. Pay attention to the lack – the need and come to find fulfillment in the right place, in Him. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Our thirst is met by the outpouring and presence of Holy Spirit in our lives. (Matthew 7:7-11; John 7:37-39)

His invitation to drink is to partake of the Holy Spirit. The only qualifier is ARE YOU THIRSTY? (1 Peter 5:6)

There's something that happens in us where we put aside our agendas, plans and desires, and get a taste of the Living God – He's the God of the overflow, of the breakthrough.

- + Come
- + Buy
- + Eat
- + Enjoy

Remember: in verse 1 He says, "Come to the waters," but in verse 3 He says, "Come to me." God Himself is the water and the milk and the wine.

- + If you are distant from God, you need to come, draw near.
- + If you have drawn near in recent days or just today, but hold back from any transaction assessing and evaluating, you need to buy. Take what God freely offers just as much as if you had bought it.
- + If you have made the transaction and hold the water and milk and wine in your hand, you need to eat. God is not a thing to be studied. He is a person to be experienced. He is food and life and joy for the soul. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring you to new life.

- + Finally, if you have eaten, delight yourself in the Lord. (Isaiah 55:12; Psalm 16:11) Live with the joy of the Holy Spirit at work in and through you today.

Discussion Questions

1. The promises of God can sometimes be turned by the enemy into statements that seem “too good to be true”. What stops you from walking in the blessing God has promised?
2. What makes you thirsty in a spiritual sense for God? Do you regularly come to Him to have your spiritual thirst met or are there other pursuits that have got in the way? What do you do to cultivate a thirst for God?
3. Read Isaiah 55:6. Share together times in your life when you have called on God in moments of great need or crisis. Why is it that we wait for moments of need or crisis when God is always near? (James 4:8)
4. Are you confident of God’s sure and steadfast covenant of love? If not why not? (Matthew 5:6)
5. God’s invitation is to come, buy, eat and enjoy. What’s your next step?
6. Pray for one another that you would be filled with Holy Spirit afresh, and from that simple drink of Him, you would be filled to overflowing, and that from you would flow unending streams of living water (John 7:37-39).