

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 13

Title: The Waters of Shiloah

Scripture: Isaiah 8: 5-8

Date: 11-23-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

No sinner is as blind as the man whose eyes are so full of self that he can not perceive the greatness of Christ Jesus the Son of God.

In Isaiah 6: 9: The Lord told Isaiah, **Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.** The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the meaning of this phrase when he told the Pharisees, in **John 9: 41: If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

Confessing our need of spiritual sight before God is confessing our sin before God. From the very first hour the believer cries out to God until the last hour we cry out to God, the believer constantly confesses his sin as he constantly begs our Lord for a fresh view of his Redeemer. David prayed, Psalm 13: 3: **Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of death.*** In Psalm 119: 18, the psalmist wrote, **Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. 19: I *am* a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.** In Psalm 119: 82 we read, **Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me? 83: For I am become like a bottle in the smoke.**

Light came to king Ahaz when God sent Isaiah to him with the word of promise, the gospel of Christ. Through the gospel the Lord spake unto Ahaz saying, **Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.** (Isaiah 7: 10, 11.) But Ahaz refused. Why did Ahaz refuse? Why do you refuse? I will try to give you one of the reasons.

Isaiah 8: 5: The LORD spake also unto me again, saying, 6: Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son; 7: Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, *even* the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: 8: And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach *even* to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.

TITLE: The Waters of Shiloah--the waters of Shiloah, or Siloam, typify Christ Jesus the Lord and Savior of God's chosen people.

Proposal: Sinful man rejects Christ because he does not perceive Christ is God of the whole earth, able to save to the uttermost.

I. THE WATERS OF SILOAM

A. Siloam means "Sent." These waters came up out of a rock at the base of Mt. Zion. We learn from Nehemiah 3:15 that **the wall of the pool of Siloah was by the king's garden.**

1. This was the pool which the Lord Jesus commanded the blind man to go wash in: **John 9:7: And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.**

2. So we see a type of Christ in the waters of Siloam for we read:

- **John 8:42: Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.**
- **John 9:4: I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**
- **Romans 11:26: And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:**

B. Our text says, the waters of Shiloah that go softly.

1. The Waters of Siloam was a small current of water, which moved softly and slowly, and not with a rapid motion, as the mighty rivers in the land. This also typifies our Lord Jesus.

- Christ is the Living Water flowing from the Rock Smitten.
- This stream trickled up out of the earth—Our Lord did not come as a mighty river, but as a gentle stream—a tender plant which sprung up.
- There was no form, nor comeliness about him that would make men desire him.
- He came into Jerusalem riding on a lowly asses' colt.
- He did not break the bruised reeds or quench the smoking flax and yet he brought forth judgment unto truth.

C. Our text says, 6: Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly

1. Most think it was from the pool of Siloam that Isaiah was sent to preach to king Ahaz. **Isaiah 7: 3: Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shearjashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field.**

2. Who was it that Isaiah's gospel declared? **Isaiah 7: 14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15: Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.**

D. Ahaz was brought to the true Fountain of Youth.

Isaiah 44: 1: Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, *which* will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3: For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4: And they shall spring up *as* among the grass, as willows by the water courses.

1. The Lord compares man's strength, man's salvation, all that men put their hope in, to the salty Egyptian sea from which he saves his people--while his salvation is a well of cool, clean water.

Isaiah 11: 15: And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make *men* go over dryshod. 16: And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt. 1: And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. 2: Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation. 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

2. The Lord compares his witnesses to that of a watered garden which he shall never fail to water.

Isaiah 58: 9: Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I *am*. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; 10: And *if* thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness *be* as the noonday: 11: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. 12: And *they that shall be* of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

3. Are you dry and in need of water? Listen to the Lord Jesus Christ:

John 7: 37: In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39: (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Illustration: What you have this morning is what Ahaz had. Just a man declaring Christ the Son of God in whom God's promise is ordered and sure.

I Corinthians 1: 28: And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

2 Corinthians 4: 1: Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2: But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3: But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5: For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Ahaz despised God's messenger, God's word, and God's Son. He did not perceive God as Mighty to Save because it came softly by the simple word of the gospel.

Illustration: Peter was on the mount of transfiguration and he wrote in **2 Peter 2: 18: And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19: We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21: For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

One of the first bases sinners will use when they reject Christ is to discredit the scriptures.

But God's promised salvation in Christ Jesus was not mighty enough for king Ahaz, for the people of Judah, or for the people of Israel. Nor is Christ mighty enough to the blind eyes of sinners in our day. What do sinners do? What did Ahaz do?

II. MAN REJOICES IN MAN.

Isaiah 8:...Rejoiced in Rezin and Remaliah's son;

A. The unregenerate man always makes his covenant with man--with himself.

Turn over to II Kings 16: 7: So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I *am* thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me. 8: And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent *it for* a present to the king of Assyria. 9: And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried *the people of* it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

Ahaz did what religious men and women do who reject Christ the Lord. He used the things of God unlawfully and thought salvation was his because of what he had done. He attempted to rob God's house to earn his own salvation.

Jeremiah 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

- Are you trying to come to God in his law? Then you are using it unlawfully.
- Do you think that since you professed Christ you are made perfect by your obedience to the law? Then you are using God's law unlawfully.
- Do you think that Christ is not enough? Then you are taking the unsearchable riches of God's house and using them unlawfully.

Galatians 2:16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified....19: For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21: I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 3: 1: O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? 2: This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3: Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? 4: Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. 5: He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6: Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7: Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Sinful man who glories in the strength of his own hand, refuses Christ the Fountain of Living Waters and hews out a broken cistern which can hold no water.

B. In our text, the Lord says the people refused the waters of Shiloah that go softly because they admired and gloried in men, in earthly kings like Rezin and Remaliah's son. The carnal mind hates God and loves self because we think ourselves more mighty than God. That is what we received when the prince of this world had his way in the garden.

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

1. By nature, without the Spirit of God, man's judgment of the way things truly are is upside down. We think God is like man and man is a god.

Psalm 50: 21: These *things* hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether *such an one* as thyself: *but* I will reprove thee, and set *them* in order before thine eyes.

Genesis 6:5: And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

2. Until we are born of God we hate the true and living God because man knows he can not come to God and yet still have his own way.

Romans 8: 7: Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **8:** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. **9:** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

3. Turn to John 3: 19 and hear the Lord Jesus Christ declare why Ahaz and all unregenerate men reject him? **19:** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20:** For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. **21:** But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

4. Because our judgment is out of order, because we have gone away backwards, because we have altogether become unprofitable, God's elect must be born of the spirit of God, that judgment be restored and we behold who God is.

John 16: 7: Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **8:** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9:** Of sin, because they believe not on me; **10:** Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; **11:** Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Isaiah preached to Ahaz that he was in such a dire need of salvation that it would take nothing less than God in human flesh to save him from his enemies. But Ahaz thought within himself, what foolishness! Isaiah declared that by the Holy Spirit the Messiah would dwell in the womb of a chosen, virgin--that is what happens when Christ is formed in one of his elect--but Ahaz refused to confess that the light he had was really darkness. Isaiah declared that the Savior would be born of the Holy Spirit for that child would be called Immanuel--both God and Man--God with us. But Ahaz had his mind on, what he considered bigger and better things. Isaiah declared that Christ Jesus the Son of God is the only way that Ahaz could find deliverance.

Ahaz did what religious men and women do who reject Christ the Lord. He used the things of God unlawfully and thought salvation was his because of what he had done. But the God of the whole earth declares what he will do.

Ahaz and the people of Judah and Israel trusted in men, they wanted a mighty flood, a mighty river instead of the waters of Shiloah that go softly, **Isaiah 8: 7: Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: 8: And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.**

Isaiah 28: 15: Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: 16: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. 17: Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. 18: And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

Question: If the grace of God is able to save in spite of the sinner's rebellion then why did God not pour out his grace upon Ahaz. Because by passing by Ahaz God shows you and I who have been saved by his grace, and you in whom he may be showing grace, just how precious and distinguishing God's grace really is.

Ahaz, like all others who die in their sins, perish because they willingly refuse Christ Jesus the Lord and rejoice in man. The apostle Paul says, **Romans 9: 19: Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? 20: Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21: Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?**

The Lord Jesus said I did not come to condemn the world. He said, "He that believeth not is condemned already." But Christ came from Mt. Zion as the waters of Siloah to save his people. **His name shall be called Jesus for he shall save HIS PEOPLE from their sins.**

The people he saves are made willing to believe him and they behold that grace is unmerited. It is God's sovereign prerogative to be merciful to whomsoever he will be merciful. And thus those who experience it are made to rejoice in God alone.

Others like Ahaz, are hardened even more when they hear what true grace is. It makes men hate God even more than the sinful heart naturally does. Because men rejoice in themselves just as Ahaz who refused Christ and gloried in Rezin and Remaliah's son.

Oh, but to those who are truly blind...sight is a marvelous thing...

Application: When the Lord came to that blind man, he put the balm on his eyes and said go wash in the pool of Siloam and the man went and washed and came away seeing. And he told the Pharisees, "**Herein is a marvelous thing, ye know not from whence he is and yet he has opened my eyes.**"

Isaiah told Ahaz, "If ye will not believe, ye shall not be established." That phrase also means, "Do you not believe? It is because you have not been established."

Cast yourself on God's mercy, confess your blindness, and hear God say, "Thy sin is forgiven. Established, established! And drink of the pool of Siloam for all your days and you will go softly, knowing your warfare is accomplished."

If you can, if you do, you will rejoice to discover that it is because God before the foundation of the world established you by singling you out in distinguishing grace in Christ Jesus the Waters of Siloam. Amen.