

God's Ultimate Invitation – Isaiah 55:1-13

Introduction: There are many invitations given to us by this world, but none truly provide lasting satisfaction or happiness. Isaiah 55:1-13 invites us to something this world cannot offer. The invitation in Isaiah is of eternal significance and is God's Ultimate Invitation to us.

1. The Offer (v. 1-5)

The Invitation is Free for Those Who Thirst and Turn

- The invitation simply says “*come*”; this invitation is not looking for your money, it is not looking for who is first in this world, or who can come bearing the greatest gifts. That is not this invitation's concern.
- What does the invitation require?
 1. You need to be thirsty. It wants people who are needy to come.
 - This is not a physical thirst, but rather a spiritual thirst.
 - Scripture reference: Revelation 21:6, John 7:37, and John 4:13-14
 2. To come to God, to come to Christ, we must turn from the ways of the world.

The Invitation Promises Eternal Life

- The eternal covenant is stated in verse 3 - “*my steadfast, sure love for David.*”
- According Acts 13:34, Isaiah 55:3 is fulfilled in Jesus Christ!
 - David is a beacon who leads to Christ through his leadership and lineage. Christ is the giver of eternal life!

The Invitation is Open to All

- Verse 5 alludes to the covenant being offered to a foreign nation (Gentiles). This offer is made possible to ALL through the saving work of Jesus Christ.
 - Scripture reference: Ephesians 2:11-13

2. The Urgency (v. 6-7)

The Call to Respond

- There is an urgency in the voice of the prophet. You must seek the Lord while He may be found.
 - Scripture reference: 2 Corinthians 6:2, Psalm 32:6
- Although there is an urgency, there is wonderful news here - we have a God who CAN BE FOUND! He is not hidden from us.

The Call to Repent

- The one who comes must come in repentance. He must forsake his ways. David acts as a model for how one should come before the Lord.
 - Scripture reference: Psalm 51
- The New Testament church began with the message of repentance.

- Scripture reference: Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17, Acts 17:30
- The church today has, in many ways, lost this message, but the truth still remains. Repenting is a beautiful picture of our dependence on God.

3. The Sovereignty (v. 8-11)

God's Sovereignty in Salvation

- Salvation is the immediate context in view here from Isaiah.
- The world teaches that you are saved by what you do; that is “works.” The Bible teaches that you are saved by grace alone through faith alone.
 - Scripture reference: Ephesians 2:8-9, and Romans 8:29-39
 - He is the author and perfecter of our faith: Hebrews 12:2

God's Sovereign Ways

- God's ways are the broader context of the passage.
- As hard as it is for us to grasp, God knows more than we do about our lives and our world. He knows what is best even when we cannot see or fathom it. His thoughts are not our thoughts, but we must desire that our will be aligned with His.
 - Scripture reference: Psalm 139, Romans 8:28

God's Sovereign Word

- Isaiah compares God's word to the rain and snow. The equation is simple: just as rain and snow water the earth bearing fruit, so does God's Word.
- God's Word is steadfast. God's Word is everlasting. God's Word is powerful. God's Word is true. And God says that it WILL accomplish all that He purposes.

4. The Sending (v. 12-13)

The Sending of Peace and Joy

- Immediate Context: When God's invitation has been accepted, and you pass from death to life through the work of Jesus Christ, there is a joy that fills your heart. That is not to say, however, that trials will not come.
 - Scripture reference: Nehemiah 8:10
- Future Context: The sending of peace and joy in verse 12 points to a glorious future when the “groanings” of this world are no more in humanity or in creation.
 - Scripture reference: Psalm 98:8-9, Revelation 21:3-4

The Sending for God's Glory

- The trajectory of creation, from the beginning, to the church age, to the future tribulation and millennium reign, and the new heavens and new earth are for and to God's glory.
- Let us glorify God to fullest in all that we do and all that we say for He alone is worthy. He alone is able to reach down to fallen humanity and say “come, I will make all things new.”