



11/27/25

Happy Thanksgiving!!! I hope you have a wonderful day however you celebrate. I am thanking God for you right now.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Isaiah 55

The book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This chapter in Isaiah includes a prophecy of hope, pointing to Jesus as my Savior... the Savior of the Gentiles. From the moment the passage begins, I can hear Jesus' words in John 7 and Matthew 11 ~ "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink... Come to Me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." This chapter is a passage of hope, and a call to make the choice to come to Him, to listen to Him, to seek Him.

Vs. 1 ~ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

This verse actually starts out with the word, "Ho!" It's a cry calling me to attention... to hear the invitation. God is not just haphazardly calling me to come. He is calling with great intentionality. "Come, Jonna. I know you're thirsty and you have no money!" Lord, why do You only call those who are thirsty and poor? Those who aren't thirsty say, "I don't need to come." Those who are rich say, "I have all I need." But in truth, EVERYONE is thirsty for the living water. EVERYONE is in need of the bread of life. I am no exception. I am so thirsty for Your love to fill me and I desperately need Your word to nourish me.

God says, "I know you don't have money. You can't earn what I have to give. I'm emphatically calling you to come and buy what you need with no money and no price. You don't need to come with money because I am putting no price tag on what I have for you."

I can't pay for what is free. This sounds obvious, but it is a hard concept to grasp. What do I

say when someone unexpectedly brings me a Christmas present? "I'm so sorry! I didn't get you anything." When I'm given a gift, I feel obligated to reciprocate... but then I'm not really understanding what a gift is. I can't give enough to be "even" with You, Lord. No matter what I give You, even when I give You myself, Your gift is exponentially greater than mine. And here, You're offering me Your gift without expecting me to give anything in return... but I can't receive the gift if I don't come.

Vs. 2-3a ~ "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live..."

How much time I have wasted searching for other things than You, Lord! And I always come to the same conclusion. These things don't satisfy. Only Jesus satisfies. I pour my time, energy, and money into things that never bring joy. But You call me to listen DILIGENTLY to You. If I listen without intentionality as if Your voice was just background noise, I will be distracted. You want to lead me to the bread of life and the living water. O Lord, please help me to pay attention!

So often I act as though You want to withhold good from me, but Your word says You want to give me what is good. You want me to experience delight! What You have for me is rich, satisfying food for my soul. Please help me to "incline my ear" to You, to lean in and listen to Your words, to trust Your word even when my feelings say something else. My feelings take me in all kinds of crazy directions, changing from one moment to the next. But Your word is constant. You never change. You are ALWAYS calling me to come, to listen, to experience Your delight.

Vs. 3b-4 ~ "And I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David. 'Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.'"

You HAVE made with me an everlasting covenant with the Son of David, Jesus Christ. Your steadfast, sure, constant love that You had for David is mine. David had a heart for You, but David also messed up really badly! And so have I! I have always had a heart for You, and I have really messed up in my life. And Your love for me has never wavered. It is steadfast and constant, faithful and unwavering.

David was a witness of Your faithfulness. He led the people to You. His life was full of troubles and trials, some that were brought upon him and some that he brought upon himself. Even from the caves when he was running from King Saul he wrote Psalm 34 and said to the men who followed him, "Come, O children. Listen to me. I will teach you the fear (worship, trust) of the Lord."

And then there's the prophetic Son of David, Jesus Christ. He bore witness of You, Father, making Your name known so that I could believe. Jesus, You are my leader... I can follow in Your footsteps because You have given me Your own life as my example. You are THE commander.

Your kingdom rules over all.

Vs. 5 ~ "Behold, You shall call a nation that You do not know, and a nation that did not know You shall run to You, because of the Lord Your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified You."

This gives me so much hope!!! This looks like it's speaking to David... but not really, because when this was written David had been buried for hundreds of years. This is speaking to JESUS. It's a prophecy of Him as the Messiah. He will call a people He does not know... that's the GENTILES. That's me. O Lord, I pray that I will never stop running to You. There is only one reason why I ever started running to You in the first place. You called me to Yourself. It is You, Yahweh Elohim, the Holy One of Israel... and now the Holy One of all who come to You... a new nation, a chosen people... believers in Christ.

Vs. 6-7 ~ "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

This reminds me of Paul's words to the Athenian philosophers in Acts 17, calling them to "seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us." I know that as long as people have breath on this earth, when they seek You, they will find You. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

This is such a great picture of Your heart. Everyone who seeks You finds You. We don't have to clean ourselves up to come to You. But we do have to walk away from what made us unclean. It's a question of geography. I can't remain in the domain of darkness AND be in Your kingdom. I can't live in darkness AND light. It's not possible. The wonderful news is, when I chose to seek You close to 50 years ago, You were there... because You had already been calling me to Yourself. Let me not miss the order of this chapter in Isaiah. It doesn't start with me seeking You. It starts with You calling me... and EVERYONE who thirsts.

You are not calling the perfect and innocent. They don't exist. You are calling the wicked and the unrighteous. That's me. What do I find when I seek You? Condemnation? A pointing finger? Disappointment? Not at all. I find compassion. I find abundant forgiveness. To forsake my ways is to know that You're so much better. The domain of darkness has no compassion. To forsake my thoughts is to be resolved in my mind that the old ways are nothing good... To forsake my thoughts is to stop condemning YOU and accusing YOU of being someone You're not.

Vs. 8-9 ~ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares 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."

I love that Your statement about Your ways and thoughts being higher than mine comes right after Your promise to have compassion and mercy for me. While I would condemn someone who does unrighteous, wicked things against me, You call us to repentance so that You can love us more... up close and personal. It is never You who withhold Your love from me. I'm the one who withholds my love from You. I'm so sorry, Lord!

Vs. 10-11 ~ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

This is true about EVERYTHING You say... every prophecy, every promise, every single word. And in context, what You're saying is that Your promise to have compassion on me and to abundantly pardon me cannot and will not be broken. The purpose You will accomplish in me is to satisfy my thirst and to nourish my soul. You give life to my soul, and an everlasting covenant so that I will have everlasting confidence in You. Also... the promise You give, that which will not be broken comes in the last two verses of this chapter...

Vs. 12-13 ~ "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Your word that comes down from heaven and accomplishes Your purpose brings me joy and peace. In this broken world, I have many thorns and briers, but You replace them one by one with the cypress and the myrtle. The cypress is an evergreen. It withstands severe weather conditions. You give me endurance. The myrtle is a flowering tree whose flowers are long lasting. You make me flourish. O Lord, yes... accomplish Your purpose in me! Like You grow branches and flowers in the cypress and myrtle, please grow my faith and endurance, and help me to flourish with joy and peace as I seek YOU. I don't need to seek joy and peace. I only need to seek the source... You. As Your word says in Psalm 105:4, please help me to "seek You and Your strength... seek Your presence continually." I know that because You help me, this will be accomplished.