

LIVING WATER

Friday, August 14

Reading: Isaiah 55

Isaiah 55:1 *"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. 3 Give ear and come to Me; hear Me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, My faithful love promised to David.*

This is not the first time that Isaiah has used this image of water to picture God's salvation. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). David had cried out, "My soul thirsts for You...in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1). Jesus Himself used this image when He said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37-38; see also John 4). Something about the picture of a refreshing drink of water stirs and satisfies our souls.

After describing the atoning death of Christ (Isaiah 53), Isaiah goes on to describe the glories of the future Kingdom when Israel will be reunited with their God (Isaiah 54). That is followed by this call for the thirsty to come! God's call is not only to drink freely but to listen and come to Him "that your soul may live" (55:3). The call also comes with a warning to seek the Lord while He may be found. No one knows how long their life will be. Those who delay accepting God's salvation may discover that it is too late! Isaiah pleads with them to forsake their evil ways so that God can show mercy and freely pardon them (55:6-7).

This kind of "unmerited favor" is hard for the sinful human mind to grasp! It is not the way people do things. But God reminds us that His thoughts and His ways are not like ours. He is so much greater that we can never fully comprehend Him. But we can be sure that His Word can be trusted. It will always accomplish the purpose God has planned. Those who trust in His Word will experience joy and peace. God's blessing will be on their lives not simply to benefit them, but to make God's name great.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. How are people of the world today wasting their energy on "what does not satisfy" (55:2)?
What have you sought after in your life that did not live up to its appeal or satisfy your soul?
Do you turn to Christ for the satisfaction only He can provide?
2. Isaiah said those who come to God will be "a witness to the peoples" and summon nations" (55:4-5).
Is the way you live a witness to the grace of God in your life?
Are others drawn to the Savior through your words and actions?
3. Isaiah stresses the importance of God's Word. Today, the Bible is being sidelined in many churches and in the lives of God's people. It is thought old-fashioned to study and obey God's Word today! These verses remind us that God works and blesses through obedience to His Word.
Are you a student of the Scriptures?
Is God's Word an important part of your daily life?
Is your church one where the Word is preached and applied?