

Who is like the LORD? He is Generous (Isaiah 55)

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Dominant Thought: Come, enjoy the free gifts of God.

Objectives:

I want my listeners to understand God's gifts are free.

I want my listeners to feel challenged to turn to the LORD.

I want my listeners to look for God's gifts as an eternal sign.

I saw him this week. Maybe you did, too. I was at a convenience store, and I went by the place that was roped off with the machines with the glowing lights and the chairs that seem to keep them glued. He was feeding more green bills into this machine. In return, he pushed a button and watched the glowing pictures scroll by. He looked hungry.

Have you seen her? She's staring at the glowing rectangle. Maybe she's trying to get the picture just right. Maybe she's checking to see how many likes or hearts show up. She just can't seem to put it down. She looks thirsty.

What about the one who works hard all day and into the evening? His bank account is growing, but his soul; something's slowly eating away at his soul. He looks like he's dying.

Do you know someone like these three? Do they look back at you in the mirror. Hungry for something more. Thirsting for something deeper. Dying for something more lasting.

God has a word for you today. Come.

In our time together, we will explore an invitation, an instruction, and find inspiration to follow our generous God.

First, an Invitation—Come to the LORD ([Isaiah 55.1-7](#)).

In these verses, we have several commands: Come, Listen, See, Seek, and Repent or Turn. I'd like to summarize them in the order they are presented: Come, Listen, Seek, and Repent. It seems to me these invitations show the steps to life change and following Jesus. First, you come. Then, you listen. Then, you seek. Finally, you repent and follow.

Come is listed four times in [Isaiah 55.1](#).

We are invited to buy things that cost no money. Then, we are asked, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" ([Isaiah 55.2](#)). In the 700's B.C., people bought things that didn't truly satisfy. The LORD invites the thirsty to come and delight ourselves with water, milk, wine, and rich food that truly satisfies.

Listen is found three times in [Isaiah 55.2-3](#). The English Standard Version says in [Isaiah 55.3](#), "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live." God's gifts truly satisfy. Our souls are shriveling up and dying because we are too easily satisfied with the things of this world, and not the eternal values of our loving LORD.

Jesus gave a similar invitation in [John 7:37-38](#) "On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "" Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit.

Seek the LORD while He may be found. We seek after many things. Things that ultimately will not satisfy or last. Jesus reminded us in the Sermon on the Mount, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things [food and clothes] will be given to you as well" ([Matthew 6.33](#)).

This section closes with an invitation to the wicked to forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts. We are called to return to the LORD so He can have compassion on us. He will abundantly pardon. With the LORD, there is forgiveness.

Second, an Instruction—His Ways are higher than our ways ([Isaiah 55.8-11](#)).

God's thoughts and God's ways are higher than our thoughts and ways. He is able to truly forgive those who have wronged Him. It doesn't make sense. The Apostle Paul said it this way to the church in Corinth in [1 Corinthians 1:23–25](#) "but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

We serve a strong and powerful and amazing God. One who keeps His word.

We have a promise in these verses that God's word will not return void but will accomplish His purpose. This promise is one of the reasons we value the authority of God's Word as one of our core values at Berlin Christian Church.

These verses promise the power of God's Word to accomplish His purpose. It has been said that when the great preacher Charles Spurgeon was doing a sound check in the auditorium before the service, Spurgeon spoke into the microphone the words of Holy Scripture, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." The custodian who was cleaning the empty sanctuary was convicted and gave His life to Christ.

As we've studied through Isaiah over the past few weeks, I wanted to share with you some of the popular and famous verses from Isaiah. You may recognize some of these verses. In the next few minutes, I'd like to read some of my favorite verses from Isaiah with you. I'd like your help. I'll read the verses in white, and I'd like you to read the verses in yellow/bold. We are reading these verses together because we believe God's ways are higher than our ways and His word will not return void. Here we go.

[Isaiah 1:18](#) "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

[Isaiah 2:4](#) "He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

[Isaiah 6:3](#) “And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

[Isaiah 6:8](#) “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

[Isaiah 7:14](#) “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

[Isaiah 9:6](#) “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

[Isaiah 11:1–2](#) “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

[Isaiah 25:7–8](#) “And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.”

[Isaiah 40:3](#) “A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”

[Isaiah 40:28–31](#) “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

[Isaiah 42:2–3](#) “He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.”

[Isaiah 43:2](#) “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

[Isaiah 51:1](#) “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.”

[Isaiah 53:5](#) “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

[Isaiah 54:17](#) “no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”

I hope these verses will give you strength and bear much fruit in our lives. Much like the water causing the crops to grow, God’s Word grows our relationship with Him deeper.

God gives an invitation, instruction, and inspiration.

Third, an Inspiration—Enjoy the enduring gifts of God ([Isaiah 55.12-13](#)).

We have pictures of joy and peace. The mountains and the hills break forth in singing. The trees of the field clap their hands.

Instead of thorns, a cypress tree. Thorns remind us of the curse of the ground as a result of sin. Instead of curse, there is life. Instead of briars, a myrtle. Something good, beautiful, and enduring.

Happiness and contentment will replace bitterness and sorrow (Gary Smith, *The Major Prophets*).

[Isaiah 55](#) closes, “This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever” (**[Isaiah 55.13](#)**). Earlier, we read, “I will make an everlasting covenant with you” (**[Isaiah 55.3](#)**). God’s gifts remind us of His enduring love and faithfulness.

This section continues a theme throughout Isaiah of the enduring everlasting faithfulness of our loving God.

Come, enjoy the free gifts of God.