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"SEEKING GOD"

Isaiah 55

INTRODUCTION:

Why should any man travel through life without God? You do not have to be educated to know how to eat or to tell when you are hungry.

The Prophet gives your position in life -- some of you have lost the things money cannot buy!

You have been seeking to be cultural - political elevation - or even social standing -- but you are not satisfied. The search among pleasures fail to fulfill the dreams of your soul. You have more material prosperity than ever before, yet you enjoy it less.

Crime is in the streets - human rights are being lost -- what has happened to us?

Like Tower of Babel - trying to build without God, before there can be peace, you must find a right relationship with God.

Therefore, heed the prophets great invitation found in Chapter 55. The following message will help you if you pay attention.

Outline:

- 1. Signal to Begin - V. 1-5.
- 2. Setting The Stop-Watch - V. 6-9.
- 3. Striving For The Goal - V. 10-13.

Invitation to Disc or Large Battle Ship - Chaplain Friend! Fellowship -

What is most interesting Invitation you Ever Received?

Matt. 11: 27-30 - how similar to V. 1.

I. Signal To Begin - V. 1-5.

The Lord Himself is Speaker, He ask a Question -

Get the picture - challenge for you to seek God, to seek him while there is time and in doing so find satisfaction.

V. 1 - Ho - trumpet - Image: Ancient City, crowds of people, animals and produce being sold, great noise as traders shout and haggle over the prices. A loud voice can be heard - the water vendor - a goat skin on his back filled with water.

Sells water by the drink.

Invitation - *Thirsty - Poor - unsatisfied - Hungry!*
v1 v2 v2 v2

dra
55: -1-

Get help. need - more money back for books -
Kramm had - not found what get one big voice

Sweep Stacks - 1 - 20 M

All out gone - Mercy

↳ - Invitation "Instruction" Inheritance

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| A. Thrifty v.1 | A. Corn v. 3 | A. Mercy v.7 |
| B. Poor v.1 | B. Lister v. 3 | B. Pardon v.7 |
| C. Unsatisfied v.2 | C. sub v. 6 | C. Joy v. 12 |
| D. Hungry | D. Ruth v.7
(Anchiral son) | D. Peace v.12 |

little girl - stomach hurts - ^{not eat} Mamma → sandwich milk -

" " eat better - Preacher came in talk about

ok - Head ache - girl said stomach what wrong - its
empty

Real Drama - Isaiah breaks out in midst of confused world - awake - attention of all. Ho - must not be over looked.

Who is invited to seek God? All who thirst! Not just those who need, but those who want what is offered.

Are you dissatisfied with self?

Are you dissatisfied with what the world offers you?

Are you dissatisfied with formalism in religion?

Matt. 5:6. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Do you thirst and want forgiveness?

Do you thirst and want holiness?

Restless until you find Him.

Check, you may be losing what money cannot buy, you may be missing a lot.

The cry is a signal for you to begin your search for God.

Three things essential to the spiritual life are mentioned.

1. Water - abundance of it, but no man can live without it. It is really life.

Symbol of the Spirit.

There is thirst - come to Christ. He is the water of life. The fountain opened - the rock smitten.

Rev. 22:17 - Healing waters.

John 7:37 - If any man thirst let him come to me and drink. *John 4:10-14*

Everyone that thirsteth - sense of need.

Barns - Luke 12:19. Man built new barns - soul not satisfied.

Psa. 42:2. "My soul thirsteth for God the living God". Are you conscious of this thirst?

2. Wine - refers to a quickening, reviving influence. Fill the soul with joy.

Symbol of joy. Gladdens. Water for life, wine to cheer.

3. Milk - strengthen - nourishment. Satisfying nature as food. Essentials

of life. Luke 4:4. "Milk of the word that ye may grow thereby".

Preacher Need Help (Sweepstakes) Money Sur
-3- Millions - Name on it - Guaranteed - Wants
1-20 M's - help to spend!

Paradox - come buy without price!

You are spiritually bankrupt - but you think you have money. Devotion of your own making.

Not earn by your best works - no purchasing power.

This is not something you can do without as well as with.

V. 1 is like a full page add in the newspaper.

Who is invited? Everyone.

What is the qualification? Thirst.

What are they invited to do? Come and buy.

What products are offered? Water - Wine - Milk

What is the purchase price? Come without money - already paid for.

Here is a person - miserable - everybody else seems to be happy - cheerful.

V. 2 - Great Logic Spending all the labour of one short life for what?

Wealth - pleasure - fill in.

Not bread.

Not satisfy.

Harken - Listen - vain spending, listen with your heart! Did you listen to an address but no special interest until speaker talked about a subject of special reference to you - quiet - hear a pin drop.

Means - Hear and obey! This do and live.

Deceit - time - money - talent - spent on things that do not stop hunger - starving.

Your life is more than meat, clothes - Dr. Andrew Blackwood - "The hardships, the heartaches, and the hopelessness of those who try to muddle through life without God". (Comment on this passage).

War on poverty today - cure all ills.

1920's promise "2 cars in every garage and 2 chickens in every pot".

People with no purpose for living - spending for that which has no real meaning.

Why do ye weigh silver for that which has no real value. Which cannot sustain you.

Little girl stomach hurt - mama told eat
Ted better milk sandwich - Preacher come in
talk about church - Head Ache - Girl said
-4- I know what's wrong, its Empty!

Which will do you no good - add field to field, but the real hunger and thirst is not satisfied.

For ~~what~~ which ~~is~~ is - no bread. The negative of bread, opposite of bread, fails to help hunger, not fill the emptiness but make you more empty. Increase your hunger. (As salt water - aggravates thirst).

Unsatisfied world - searching for happiness. Naaman - "My father if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it?" 2 K. 5:13.

Haman - Unsatisfied in midst of abundance. Rich people - poor people - mistrust in things. Unprofitable labors of mankind.

This Scripture - Hymn "Just As I Am" - was based.

"Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O lamb of God, I come, I come."

V. 3 - The Way of Life.

Instruction - Come - Listen - See - Return
V3 V3 V4 V7

Dr. Kyle Yates - "The prophet begged the people to stretch out their ears in attention, get on their feet and start walking, hear with interest and obedience, and begin real living again.

The condition imposed was simply the full submission of the will to the divine will. It sounds exceedingly simple and easy. Not the verbs "listen, come, hear, live."

Key thought is - begin real living.

A "Tall Texas Tale" - a proverbial texan owned a solid gold Cadillac. At his request when he died he was seated behind the steering wheel and buried in the car. As he was being lowered into his grave, someone exclaimed, "Man, that's living, ain't it!"

How many of you are like that -- you have a name to live, but you are not a Christian at all.

Matt. 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone - if we would live off the fatness - richness - delights of life.

You can say, "I am satisfied".

Will it last? Makes a covenant - everlasting.

David a type of Messiah - our identification. 2 Sam. 7:1-6 - David is ashamed to live in a house of cedar while the ark is dwelling in curtains.

2 Sam. 23:5.

Sure Mercies - forever - secure. Acts 13:34.

III. - Shipwreck - crew drifted for days in small boat. Suffered horrors of thirst. All hope - near a body of land - called for water. "Dip your bucket over the side" came the answer". They had drifted into that part of the mighty Amazon where fresh waters flow out to sea. They were actually floating in an ocean of plenty and were unaware of the fact. (The great text of the Bible, Vol. 6 page 361).

John 4:13-14.

Horatius Bonar:

"I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him."

V. 4 - A witness - commander - Ref. to David and larger meaning, Messiah.

Attest to the truth of the promises - witness.

Palm Sunday - Jesus looked upon as commander - one in front - leader.

V. 5 - Messiah - Clear from one nation - the Gospel to spread to many nations. Gentiles - invited.

II. Setting The Stop Watch - V. 6-9.

In seeking God there is a time to begin and there will be a stopping time.

V. 6 Two things:

If you ask God for forgiveness can we be sure He will grant it?
Seek Jer 29:13 I. Seek the Lord with an Intense Priority. Pursuit - Step forward
II. " " " " a Positive Expectancy. Truly Pardoned.
Call - Pray. III. " " " " An Assured Certainty. V. 8-9

✓ Seek - No indication that God is hard to find. He is always near - waiting to bless.

Not that God is going to hide - run away.

Appointed method for finding God - seek to be reconciled - are you trying to become acquainted with Him.

Some think God does all the seeking.

Responsibility of man - Seek the Lord without delay or the opportunity will pass.

Means - there are certain times when it is much easier to find Salvation.

One day God will move away from the rebellious leaving them in their lost condition. Day of Grace.

Seek while He may be found. Matt. 25:1-13, John 7:34, 2 Cor. 7:2, Heb. 2:3.

✓ Call while He is Near - Pray.

Minnesota farm lake - farmer - sail boat - overturned. Dark - He was a good swimmer but not know the right direction - daughter called - voice of his little girl - if she continues I can find my way. Cry came louder - He made it.

Call ye - seems to be stronger than seek ye.

More positive - Rom. 10:8-9.

Seek him as a hungry baby goes to its Mother's breast.

The watch will stop and your seeking and call will have past - the stop watch has been set. Time will come be impossible to find the Saviour.

Remember: 3 Things.

1. You cannot be happy without Him.
2. He is not pleased with your sins.
3. He is the only hope!

V. 7 - Two changes: Repent/and Reform.

INHERITANCE - Mercy - Pardon - joy - peace
v7 v7 v12 v12

How may one seek the Lord?

Complete turning and changing - a reverse. Conduct must be changed. Instead of earth bound, you are Heaven bound.

Wicked forsake his way - wicked sins openly in his way. Evil course in life.

Aims - plans.

Refers to outer life of man. Whole road of life. Broadway leadeth to destruction.

Unrighteous man his thoughts - man of iniquity.

The subtle workings of sin in "thoughts"!

Refers to Inner life of man.

All are guilty in this respect - you may get by the first and say I'm safe from external sin. The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man they are vanity.

Strikes at impure ideas - sinful thoughts - unholy affections. These will become immoralities. Unscriptural opinions of a man must change.

Admonition - forsake ways and thoughts and return. True repentance.

Way of God - He is your God. Leave things that corrupt - break with evil - leave sin.

Abundantly Pardon - This is more than to have mercy. God will "Most Surely" meet man with mercy but He will much more freely forgive".

Bases on Man's repentance.

God does not require the impossible - simply to turn - to love God.

What is your condition? Have you forsaken your evil ways and thoughts?

Like a traveler some of you are on the wrong road - not hard conditions such as purgatory - only ask to trust and repent.

This is God's way of forgiving men.

Abundantly - Blot out - cast into the sea. Remember them no more - great difference! Means cover all sins.

Prodigal Son - Luke 15 - Reckless life - received abundant pardon. Conversion deals with the life and conduct - a new way!

This message is to Chesapeake - Norfolk - North Carolina - Eastern Shore - Suffolk - Newport News -- Promise is for all.

How can God pardon sinners who continue in their wickedness? Not tolerate sin but deliver.

A captive follower of Duke of Monmouth brought before James II. "You know it is in my power to pardon you," said the King. "Yes", said the man who knew his cruel character "but it is not in your nature". The truth was understood.

V. 8 - Two Comparisons

Encouragement to receive the Lord's Pardon.

His ways - thoughts - not like man's. Exalted - higher - sublime.

Transcends - man finds it hard to forgive and pardon the person who has harmed him.

Seeks revenge.

God pardons the offender. Hence salvation was not formed in the mind of man.

Man would make select cases, but God offers pardon to all.

Rom. 3:25.

Remember God's displeasure at sin. Remember the number of your sins. He forgives all!

"Whosoever will let him come".

The ring which Elizabeth gave to the Earl who was later beheaded in the tower because she did not receive the ring by the jealous woman entrusted with it.

We have a mediator who never fails to deliver the pardon.

Old Romans - use to attack a city - set up a white flag at the gate. Lives were spared of all who surrendered under the white flag. After a period of time a black flag was set up, all who were taken were put to the sword.

Surrender in this world or be judged in the next.

V. 9 - Two Comparisons Illustrated.

Ways - higher than earth.

Thoughts higher than earth.

Repeat of V. 8 - "Neither are your ways my ways". Trans.

III. Striving For The Goal - V. 10-13.

Prophet has encouraged men to seek God, he has put a time limit upon the search, now he presses them to reach the goal, they will not be disappointed.

V. 10 - Parable of Nature to illustrate the Gospel.

Rain and snow - God's ministers - go forth to serve.

They have work to do - they do not return without accomplishing.

Descends from Heaven and gives nourishment to the fertile soil. Fruit is produced in the harvest.

Spirit of God descends and works in hearts.

Christian service will produce. Earth bud - grow.

V. 11 - Power of God's Word - Truth of the Parable.

Not return void. The word will act in the same manner as the rain and snow.

Bring delight to hearts of men.

Deut. 8:3.

Snow and rain refuse to turn back - word not turn back until God's purpose is accomplished. It cannot fail on its mission of mercy. When it enters barren lives - it is quick and powerful to give rich harvest. Cannot fail.

Design of the word - gives light - satisfy - joy - heal.

"God said let there be light".

By his word the Heavens were made.

Every word is endured with life from God. Not return unless it has accomplished.

Even hard hearts are left without excuse!

V. 12 - External Change

Power of Word to change, transform the inward man.

Joy is the scene - contrast of the Exodus from Egypt and Babylon. 1st with hurry, alarm, danger. 2nd - peace - singing - joy - nature joins in.

Regeneration does bring joy.

Trees clap.

Birth of Christ - Stars - Joshus seen - Hezekiah - sun dial - some have said this to balance the 46 minutes lost.

V. 13 - Peace - Fill the land.

Thorn - Fir tree.

Brier - Myrtle tree.

Unfruitful vineyards - land in waste - general state of wretchedness (sin).

Fir and Myrtle - represent a happy external condition of life - show the glory of God.

Everlasting sign - covenant - everlasting kindness. Perpetual memorial to Glory of God. Jer. 13:11.

Thorn - Emblem of the wicked. 2 Sam. 23:6; Micah 7:4.

Fir - Emblem of Godly - Isa. 60:13; Rom. 6:19.

Brier - Emblem of Uncultivation - Isa. 5:6

Myrtle - Emblem of Esther - beautiful - Evergreen shrub - Type of Christian Church

Myrtle Spirit - "Meet for the Masters Use".

" I came to Jesus as I was.

Weary and worn and sad.

I found in him a resting place and he made me glad."

Human side - seek - call - forsake - return.

Divine side - maybe found - is near. May withdraw.

"Ho! Everyone that thirsts, draw nigh :

'Tis God invites the fallen race:

Mercy and free salvation buy,

Buy wine, and milk and gospel grace.

See from the rock a fountain rise;

For you in healing streams it rolls;

Money ye need not bring, nor price,

Ye lab'ring, burden'd sin-sick souls.

Nothing ye in exchange shall give;

Leave all you have, and are behind;

Frankly the gift of God receive;

Pardon and peace in Jesus find."

Song Whosoever -

Henry Moorehouse / Evangelist 1869 - Sermon on John 3:16 - Impressed Mr. Bliss

and he wrote "Whosoever Will"

Whosoever heareth, shout, shout the sound!

Send the blessed tidings all the world around.

The hymn - emphasised - Whosoever was sung.

Richard Baxter - famous London Preacher, saved.

"Praise the Lord when he says whosoever,

I know he included me the worst of all".

Finding God is Mysterious & Simple

" " " Free & cost surrendering self, Find meaning to life -

AN INVITATION TO TRUST THE LORD

Isaiah 55:1-13

Design an invitation for a spiritually thirsty person. According to Isaiah 55, what is offered by God in the invitation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Paraphrase this invitation for 1992.

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