



Sermon Discussion Questions  
October 15, 2023,  
The Gospel According to Isaiah  
**THE LORD WILL NOURISH YOUR SOUL**  
Isaiah 55:1-13

### 1. Opening Discussion Questions

- a. Have you ever received an invitation to an event – perhaps the wedding of a distant relative or a party hosted by someone you didn't really know well – and had a difficult time deciding how to respond? If so, what were your reasons for not immediately accepting the invitation? How long did you put off responding? What most influenced your ultimate decision?
- b. Most of us have at one time or another bought something that we really thought we needed only to later realize it was probably an unnecessary and perhaps even unwise purchase (“buyer’s remorse”). Share such an experience in your life. What did you learn from it? On the other hand, is there something you’ve purchased that you realize is so important you would gladly pay far more if you had to buy it again?

### 2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. Find True Satisfaction in the Lord (Isaiah 55:1-5)
  - i. An invitation to all who are unsatisfied.
  - ii. Through Jesus, the Bread of Life and source of Living Water.
- b. Fully Embrace God’s Grace (Isaiah 55:6-9)
  - i. People must embrace God’s grace in these last days.
  - ii. Make sure you’ve truly embraced God’s grace!
- c. Trust God’s Word and Work (Isaiah 55:10-13)
  - i. Trust the power of God’s Word.
  - ii. God’s work will be accomplished in your life and the world.

### 3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
  - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
  - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
  - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday** – *Find True Satisfaction in the Lord (Isaiah 55:1-5)*
- i. Read Isaiah 55:1-5 slowly and thoughtfully several times – use different translations if possible.
    - 1. What was your first reaction to this passage?
    - 2. How would you describe the character or intent of these verses in just a word or two?
    - 3. What would say was the overall tone of the verses?
  - ii. The verses contain a lot of imperatives. Circle, underline, or list as many as you can identify. What do these imperatives suggest to you about the passage?
  - iii. To whom was this amazing offer extended? How would you describe what they were offered?
  - iv. Although the Lord cries out to “everyone who thirsts” and “he who has no money” what tells us that He is talking about something more important than physical substance?
- c. **Tuesday** – *True Satisfaction in the Lord (Isaiah 55:1-5)*
- i. In verses 1 & 2 He invites the reader to “come to the waters,” to “buy wine and milk”, and to “delight yourselves in rich food”.
    - 1. What is He offering?
    - 2. Why do you think He includes these four items?
  - ii. Why does He invite the people to buy good things “without money and without price”?
    - 1. What point is He making?
    - 2. What do you think is implied by telling the people to “buy” if the items have no price and there is no money involved? What must they still do?
    - 3. Why is this important to us today?
  - iii. Verses 3-5 provide the basis for this wonderful invitation: the covenant blessing God promised David – that one of his descendants would always be king of His people and that the Messiah would be the last, permanent King.
    - 1. Read 2 Samuel 7:14-16, Psalm 89:3-4, Isaiah 9:7b, Jeremiah 3:17 and Daniel 7:27.
    - 2. How does the New Testament tell us this New Covenant was established (see Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25, and Hebrews 12:24)?
  - iv. Why would someone turn down what the Lord offers in these verses in exchange for things that don’t satisfy? List as many reasons as you can. (Use the list of reasons to help you to understand the responses of those with whom you share the Gospel.)

*d. Wednesday – Fully Embrace God’s Grace (Isaiah 55:6-9)*

- i. Read Isaiah 55:6-9 slowly and thoughtfully several times – use different translations if possible.
  1. How does the tone change from the previous verses?
  2. If the first five verses were described as an “Invitation”, how would you describe these verses (see Romans 2:4 for a suggestion)?
  3. Again, the passage includes several imperatives. What are they and what does their presence in these verses say to you?
- ii. In these verses God addresses the poor and thirsty as “wicked” and “unrighteous.” Who are the thirsty, poor, wicked, unrighteous ones in your life that the Lord is calling? What are you doing to help them?
- iii. These people need to “seek” and “call on” the Lord “while he may be found” and “is near”.
  1. What are the most obvious factors setting a time limit?
  2. What would you say to someone who’s response to the Gospel was: “Not now, I want to enjoy my life first. There is always time later.”?
  3. What do these passages suggest about when/how long we will have an opportunity to respond to God’s calling: Luke 14:16-24, Proverbs 1:20-33, 2 Corinthians 6:2, and Hebrews 12:17?

*e. Thursday – Fully Embrace God’s Grace (Isaiah 55:6-9)*

- i. In verses 1-5 the Lord invites the poor to buy without cost, but verse 7 seems to describe a “cost”.
  1. How would you describe the “cost”?
  2. Read these verses about repentance: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, Romans 2:4, Hebrews 6:1, Acts 20:21, Matthew 3:8, and Acts 26:20.
  3. Why is it necessary to forsake one’s wicked “ways” and “thoughts” before one can turn to the Lord and be pardoned?
  4. How would you explain the relationship between faith, repentance, and deeds in the life of a Christian?
- ii. Verses 8 and 9 are familiar to most Christians but are most frequently quoted with the verses that follow and not with those that precede. Starting verse 8 with a “for” points us backward. Read verses 6-9 as a single paragraph ignoring verse markings.
  1. Based on this passage what is it that set Him apart from us?
  2. How different do you think things would be if God dealt with us on our terms, not His?
  3. How would you see Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 5:45-48 relating?
  4. How can we be more like God by adopting His attitude toward people who have made themselves our enemies?

*f. Friday – Trust God’s Word and Work (Isaiah 55:10-13)*

- i. Read Isaiah 55:10-11.
  - 1. What do these verses say to you?
  - 2. What is the one word that you would choose as the subject?
  - 3. Read Luke 8:4-15.
    - a. How does this parable relate to verses 10-11?
    - b. Does the parable help you see how these two verses fit into the invitation God is extending in this chapter?
- ii. Compare Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:18 and 1 Peter 1:24-25.
  - 1. How does the truth conveyed in these verses and the final phrase of verse 11 help strengthen your faith?
  - 2. How meaningful would it be to be a Christian if this wasn't true?
- g. *Saturday – Trust God's Word and Work (Isaiah 55:10-13)*
  - i. The chapter ends with verses 12-13 providing a beautiful picture of nature transformed by the removal of the curse of sin (see Romans 8:21). When we respond to His invitation our lives will change – joy, peace and fruitfulness will follow in this life and an eternity of blessing with Him in the next.
  - ii. Meditate on the promise of these verses along with 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1-4.

**4. Application:** Isaiah 55 is like a beautifully engraved invitation to the ultimate event. As Christians we have already sent in our RSVP but now are expected to pass the invitation on to those who have not yet responded. How well are you doing at getting the invitation out? How well is the Church?

### 5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. **C**onfession – James 5:16
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Philippians 4:6
- d. **S**upplications – James 4:2-3
  - i. That God will provide many opportunities for each of us to share His invitation with others this week.
  - ii. That the success of the Awana program, with more than 60 kids now enrolled, will lead to meaningful opportunities to share the Good News not only with the kids but with their extended families.
  - iii. For the staff of Lake Ridge Baptist during Pastor Appreciation month.
  - iv. For the Christian churches and missions' organizations in Israel and Gaza – both for safety and, more importantly, that God will use this crisis as an opportunity to draw many to Himself.
  - v. For the LRBC members that are currently preparing the 2024 budget for the church's consideration – that God will provide wisdom and clarity on how He would like His money to be used.