

Series: Isaiah 2023

Title: (Four Sure Promises) For the Poor and Needy

Text: Is 41: 17-18

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Isaiah 41: 17: *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18: I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*

Everyone likes a sure thing. In our text, our Lord gives four promises—four specific “I will’s.” When the true God our Savior says, “I will” it is sure. He is absolutely sovereign to bring his purpose to pass.

Isaiah 14: 27: For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Isaiah 46: 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

His glory makes his promises sure. The glory of the Son of God are connected with his promises. He has given us his word and for his own glory he will bring his word to pass.

Isaiah 48:11 For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

The salvation of his people make his promises sure. He shall save his people from our sins. No sinner is saved by our will. We are saved by God’s will.

Ephesians 1:11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Those things make his promises sure, absolutely sure: the absolute sovereignty of our God, his glory, and the salvation of his people.

But notice who these promises are for—the poor and needy—v17: *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst.*

Every promise of God is only for the poor and needy. God’s promises are only to sinners who are such sinners that we have no wisdom in ourselves. We have no righteousness of ourselves. We have no holiness of ourselves. We have no strength in ourselves. Our poverty is that we have nothing of ourselves and can provide nothing of ourselves. Our need is that we need Christ to be all and provide all.

Are you poor and needy? Does that description fit you? It is the description of every fallen child of Adam. But God only reveals it to his elect. This need and poverty is only revealed to those God loved freely from before the foundation of the world, those he saves for Christ’s sake. God’s promises are only to sinners who have no wisdom, no righteousness, no holiness and no strength in ourselves—*When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst*

Isaiah 41: 29: He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

Isaiah 61: 1 [Christ declares this] The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Isaiah 66:2...but to this *man* will I look, *even* to *him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Psalm 68:10 Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.

Psalm 72:13 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

The first four beatitudes describe his people when he has made us know our dire poverty in ourselves and our need of Christ to be All unto us.

Matthew 5: 3: Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Subject: (Four Sure Promises) for the Poor and Needy

OUR SAVIOR PROMISES TO HEAR US

Isaiah 41: 17 *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them,*

When we behold our poverty and our need we often call on our brethren. Brethren, I am here for you. I will pray for you. But Christ is our great High Priest. You can go directly to him. He promises, "*I the LORD will hear them.*" He paid a great price to give you that access.

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

He promises, *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them.* If you cry out to him without merit in yourself, without strength in yourself, but totally poor and needy, he promises, "*I the LORD will hear them.*"

He heard the children of Israel when in bondage in Egypt. He heard David in the wilderness. He heard Paul when he cried due to his thorn in the flesh. Child of God, sometimes your tongue fails for thirst. You cannot even utter the words to pray. But our Lord hears the desire of your hearts.

Romans 8: 26: Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Psalm 102:17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

Psalm 72:12: For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and *him* that hath no helper.

OUR SAVIOR PROMISES TO NOT FORSAKE US

Isaiah 41: 17...I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

I said that he has connected his name and his glory and his purpose to his promises. That is what he does here when he says, "*I the God of Israel will not forsake them.*" He made himself to be the God of his elect Israel: he chose us, we did not choose him. Christ Jesus is "THE GOD" of Israel. He is sovereign to work his will and sovereign to keep us and never forsake us. Christ Jesus laid down his life for his elect and justified us. It would go against his holiness, his justice, to forsake us.

Isaiah 49: 14 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. 15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. 16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.

Hebrews 10: 15 *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Isaiah 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Genesis 28:15 And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

Psalm 94:14 For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

When we see our poverty and our need, when our tongue fails for thirsting after Christ our Righteousness, be content till he answer. Remember his promise as you wait for him to answer.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Not long after brother Marvin Stalnaker had moved to pastor Katy Baptist Church, he was preaching on this subject. In the middle of the message brother Scott Richardson spoke out, “What if he changes his mind?” After all the air was sucked out of the room, Marvin replied, “He won’t.” He said, *Mal 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

Child of God not only are these promises sure because God is sovereign, because of his glory, because justice is satisfied, and because he shall save his people from our sins, but also because our Savior is immutable God. He never changes.

OUR SAVIOR PROMISES TO GIVE US THE WATER OF LIFE

Isaiah 41: 18: I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys:

Water is our need physically. But much more spiritually. Our need is the water of the word. Our need is Christ, the Fountain of living waters. Our need is the grace of God—water describes God’s grace in scripture.

He promises “*I will open rivers in high places.*” There shall come directly from God himself a rush mighty river of grace. He will make the word like a river to your poor, dead, dry heart. You shall suddenly behold Christ himself by faith and feel that the waters of life have come directly from the throne of God to you.

He promises, “*I will open...fountains in the midst of the valleys.*” Fountains are “wells.” Wells are where people go for water. They represent the means of grace.

Isaiah 12: 2 Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation. 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Come to hear Christ preached. Read his word. Go to him in prayer. He will use the means to open wells of water to us.

Wherever we are, Christ is able to open the waters of salvation to us. When we are up in the mountain—we are usually in a dangerous place—but our Lord can make a river on the top of a mountain. Or if we get so low in the valley that we despair of spiritual life—of even knowing our Lord—he promises to open fountains/wells in the valley. Wherever we are, Christ is our Need. Christ is the Life, the Water. On the mountain or in the valley, Christ promises to give us fresh views of him—“*I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys:*”

OUR SAVIOR PROMISES TO FILL US WITH WATER

Isaiah 41: 18...I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

The wilderness and the dry land is us, our sinful flesh. He creates in us new life, the Water of Life. And he continues to supply our new man with the water of life. However barren, God, by his grace, can make us the opposite. He can make “the dry land” into “a pool of water.”

No sinner is too great a sinner for Christ to save. No sin is so great our Redeemer has not put it away for his people. God promises to forgive us all our sins and remember them no more for Christ’s sake. Our garments may be stained but Christ makes them white as snow.

“Pools” mean overflowing abundance. You can swim in a pool. God makes our cup run over. In Christ we find joy in abundance. In Christ we have perfect righteousness to cover us, the perfect putting away of all our sins and iniquities and perfect reconciliation to God in Christ. God is not stingy with grace—he gives us in abundance—a “pool of water.”

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 36:8: They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. 9: For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

He promises, “I will make...the dry land springs of water.” It means perpetual, never-ending, renewing grace. The Holy Spirit keeps the gospel always new. He keeps Christ always new unto us. He keeps us trusting him and serving him by renewing us in grace.

Our greatest danger is when we think we are full and in need of nothing. But God promises that he will keep us knowing our poverty in ourselves and our need of Christ. Lay hold of God’s “I will’s.”

Through this gospel our Shepherd feeds us and nourishes us. This is all a spiritual work. Christ must make us “*the poor and needy.*” He makes us hunger and thirst for Christ to be our Righteousness. That is what Christ does for his people. Christ is himself the Water of Life. Do not be like those in Jeremiah’s day.

Jeremiah 2: 13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Remember, we—our sinful flesh—is the wilderness and the dry land. But when I am poor, then I am rich. When I am weak, then I am strong. When I am empty, then I am full. When I have nothing, then I have everything. Go to Christ. He promised,

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The Holy Spirit blessing the gospel of Christ to our new hearts, renews our inward man with fresh supplies of grace to behold the love of God in giving his only begotten Son that we might live through him. Our Sanctifier renews strength and comfort in us by giving us fresh views of pardon and righteousness by Christ. He reminds of this very word, that he is working in the midst of his church, keeping us as the apple of his eye.

Psalm 68:9: Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

These are four sure promises for the poor and needy. Are you poor and needy or can you stand on your own? The Savior of the poor and needy promises,

Isaiah 41: 17 *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst,*

I the LORD will hear them,

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

v18: I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys:

I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Amen!