

Sunday, April 26, 2020

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

77. Abundant Pardon – Isaiah 55:1-13

Intro: The call of the gospel is sent out to the thirsty and the wicked to come to the banquet and seek the Lord. The Servant has done everything, removing sin, establishing righteousness, creating a family (His seed), and the response is to sing and shout for joy over what someone else has accomplished and to enjoy a feast for which someone else has paid!

I. Come and Listen – vs. 1-5

A. Come (vs. 1)

1. The cries of street vendors – urgent, impassioned
2. Imperatives!
3. Three Calls
  - a. Come – waters for the thirsty – John 4:10, 13-14
  - b. Come – buy bread and eat, without money (poverty) – Matt. 5:3; John 6:35, 51
  - c. Come – buy wine and milk without money or cost – richness, yet free
  - d. The person with no money is a welcome customer and will eat according to his need
  - e. These are not beggars – it is free for them but there is a price (that is not theirs to pay)
4. This is the Lord's salvation – His the price, ours the gift
  - a. Water of refreshment – John 7:38
  - b. Wine of joy – John 2:10 (Prov. 31:6; Psa. 104:15); Zech. 10:6-8
  - c. Milk of richness (abundance) – John 10:10

B. Listen (vs. 2-3)

1. Why spend money on what is not bread? – Isa. 44:14-20 – lavish wealth and toil on idols and have only ashes to eat
2. Listen persistently and eat good food, be satisfied – Matt. 5:6
3. Listen and come to Me – obey My Word
  - a. Hear and your soul shall live
  - b. The Lord's Word gives life – Rom. 1:16; Psa. 119:50; John 6:63
4. An everlasting covenant (for, not with) – Jer. 31:30-33
  - a. The promises to David
  - b. Sure mercies = faithful loves – Psa. 89:1-2, 33-34, 49-50
  - c. David's kingship will cover the world and occupy an enduring throne
  - d. I will bring you into covenant blessings under this king on David's throne – Psa. 45:6; Lam. 5:19

C. King, Lord, and Holy One (vs. 4-5)

1. A Witness to the nations – Isa. 42:1-4; 49:2-3; 50:4, 10-11
2. A Word that overcomes ignorance and introduces eagerness – run to You
3. Because of the LORD your God
  - a. The promised blessings are pledged by Covenant
  - b. They are secured by the person and rule of David's throne
  - c. The Lord Himself will be the magnet drawing the nations into the covenanted Davidic blessings – John 6:44

II. Call and Repent – vs. 6-13

A. Seek and Call – vs. 6-7

1. If you are going to answer the call and come to partake of the covenant blessings – repent
2. Seek = not looking for something lost, but coming with commitment to one known to be there – coming urgently and expectantly

3. Come, while He permits Himself to be found (you will only find Him if He reveals Himself to you) – Berkhof Quote
  4. We come to the Lord as we are, but not to stay as we are
  5. Repent = forsake and return, turn from one to another
    - a. Wicked – those guilty before the Law, condemned by God
    - b. Unrighteous – trouble-makers – treating others badly
  6. Thoughts become plans becomes our path
  7. Turn back – come and go the other way
  8. He will freely and fully pardon - used only of God, referring to a forgiveness of the offense sin gives to God
- B. Ways and Thoughts – vs. 8-9
1. My thoughts and ways are not yours
    - a. We are called to come because we are contrary to Him – this is how we naturally stand before God and why we must repent
    - b. We have all gone astray, our own way – Isa. 53:6
  2. How far off are we?
    - a. We are separated by a distance that is higher than the heavens above the earth
    - b. Immeasurably – yet repentance can bridge that gap
- C. A Gift from Heaven – vs. 10-11
1. Rain
    - a. Given absolutely – without return
    - b. Given to produce life – bud and flourish
    - c. Given to provide for human need – seed to sow, bread to eat
  2. Word
    - a. Heavenly origin – from My mouth
    - b. Powerfully effective – accomplishes what I desire
    - c. Certain – it never fails
  3. The Call to Repent – 2 Peter 3:9
    - a. On one hand, repentance is the way to enter the great, free feast
    - b. On the other hand, the call to repent is a Word from God bringing with it its own power of accomplishment
- D. New Life, New Peace, New World – vs. 12-13
1. You who were far off, now enter peace
  2. Go out – exodus/exile – new life, new freedom, new relationship with God
  3. There is joy and peace in creation – the curse is reversed! – Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 8:22
  4. From the dead tree came everlasting life (evergreen trees)
  5. The Lord’s name – this is the sort of God He is – transforming his children and all of creation – Motyer Quote

“Without revelation man would never have been able to acquire any knowledge of God. And even after God has revealed Himself objectively, it is not human reason that discovers God, but it is God who discloses Himself to the eye of faith. However, by the application of sanctified human reason to the study of God’s Word, man can, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, gain an ever-increasing knowledge of God.” – Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, pg. 21

“When the people respond to the Lord’s Word calling them to seek, forsake, and return, the effective power of that word brings them into an experience of the love, forgiveness, and peace of God and lifts them into membership of a new world of eternal duration. This is what the Servant accomplished.” – AJ Motyer, *Commentary on Isaiah*, pg. 458