

Come One, Come All Isaiah 55

Introduction

- A. Isaiah 55 is perhaps the most warmhearted, sincere and encouraging invitation to be found in all of the Scriptures. Here is grace and mercy because the invitation comes from God Himself.
 - 1. In Isaiah 53 we saw how redemption accomplished (Jesus dies on a cross, is raised to new life, and will have a people of his own).
 - 2. In Isaiah 54 we saw that these blessings (marriage, family and heaven) will be spread abroad to the nations. People groups from all over the world will come to Christ.
- B. Now Isaiah 55 assures us that God is an inviting God (His arms are wide open). God invites everyone to come to Him.
 - 1. My title is **Come One, Come All** (as in kick the can: ally, ally, in come free) because Isaiah 55 is a word for each and every one of us (both Christians and non-Christians).
 - 2. Because, and here is the point, we are only fully and completely satisfied in Jesus Christ. We will not find soul-deep satisfaction anywhere else.
- C. Isaiah 55 naturally divides into three sections (invitations).
 - 1. Isaiah 55:1-5 (an invitation to come)
 - 2. Isaiah 55:6-11 (an invitation to seek)
 - 3. Isaiah 55:12-13 (an invitation to satisfaction)

I. Read Isaiah 55:1-5 (an invitation to come).

- A. The first word is come. Who? Who should come? Well, everyone who thirsts and is broke. This is not a physical condition; this is a spiritual condition.
- B. Here we see two types of people described. Our hearts tend to drift to one or the other.
 - 1. One, those who hunger and thirst (spiritually bankrupt).
 - Ex: Weary, discouraged, afflicted, perplexed, struck down, dry. Life is empty, boring, no strength, no motivation - just a flickering desire for something satisfying.
 - 2. Two, those who think they can acquire satisfaction with their own resources. They spend and labor but they are not satisfied. These folks want to be self-sufficient (God).
- C. The invitation to come is an invitation to spiritual drink and food. Water, wine, milk (all of these are drinks) and bread (food). Meaning what?
 - 1. Water is necessary for all of life and symbolizes life (water sustains and refreshes).
 - 2. Milk corresponds to ongoing nourishment (strength).
 - 3. Wine symbolizes joy (gladness).
 - 4. Bread (solid nourishment and strength)
- D. Come, all you faint of heart and come, all you who are self-sufficient, eat what is good and delight yourself in rich food. I'm thirsty and hungry Lord. How Lord?

1. Verse 2: Listen diligently to me (God).
2. Verse 3: Incline your ear, hear (God).

E. Christians listen to the Word of God. We are a hearing people.

There are two ways in which the Lord teaches us - by external preaching and by the secret revelation of the Holy Spirit. John Calvin in *Isaiah Crossway Classic Commentary*, p 332

1. Corporate dimension (preaching)
2. Private dimension (personal study)
3. In both we need illumination (we need to hear)

F. Come, listen, hear, because only Jesus Christ offers good, rich food. This world will never satisfy us (even wealth brings misery).

1. We are all worshipers. We will either worship Jesus Christ or we will worship the world, ourselves, or even Satan. We all seek satisfaction (even the person committing suicide).

Ex: There is no satisfaction in sin, it never delivers (promises). No satisfaction in good things either (like the Phillies winning a world Series - parade - next day?).

2. The invitation to come is an invitation to come to Jesus Christ (He is everlasting). Christ is the one who will reign forever and there is no end to His kingdom.

Luke 1:30-33 (ESV) And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

3. The invitation is come and listen.

II. Read Isaiah 55:6-11 (an invitation to seek).

A. Do not merely come once. Seek the Lord. Again, a word to everyone (especially sinners).

1. Verse 7: let the wicked forsake his way; the unrighteous man his thoughts, turn (repent) to the Lord.
2. Because, God will abundantly pardon (Happy Day!). No sin is too deep or too dark.
Ex: The only sin that cannot and will not be forgiven ultimately is unbelief.

B. Seek God for His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. Though God is holy (pure) He offers compassion to us all.

1. Sinner, will you come? Will you seek? Or, will you perish in your dissatisfaction?

Ex: Young folks aren't always aware of dissatisfaction (it took some time for the prodigal son to have his fill of slop).

C. How do we seek and call?

1. The term we're probably most familiar with is "pray." Prayer is conversation (phone call).
 2. Our conversation with God is a cry for help. God is not so much interested in changing circumstances as he is in changing us.
- D. If you seek God seriously you will find that you turn from sin and everything God hates. There is no peace for the wicked, God will not hear their cry.
1. This is because our actions demonstrate our sincerity.
- Ex: A man chooses adultery, and seeks reconciliation with his wife (he calls). She asks, have you left the other lover. He says, no. She says, don't bother. Empty words.
2. When we call and when we seek the Lord looks for a sincere heart. A heart that is simply aware of its neediness. Remember Isaiah 1?
- Isaiah 1:12-15 (ESV) When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? 13 Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.
- E. This leads us to the necessity of God's Word. We cannot prosper without God's Word but with God's Word we will prevail. We will stand on the promises. God's Word is:
1. A light for our feet
 2. A mirror for us to see ourselves
 3. The revelation of God (know God, know yourself)
 4. Fruitful (it does not return empty)
- F. To seek God is to pray and read the Word of God. To seek God is also to turn from sin.
1. The invitation is seek and call.

III. Read Isaiah 55:12-13 (an invitation to satisfaction).

- A. You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace. Who is you?
1. The one who has come, the one who thirsts, the one who has purchased wine and milk without money, seeking, calling, turning away, and eating the Word of God.
- B. Are you sure this is a word for us? Isn't this a word to Israel? Yes, but it is a word to the true Israel (believers in Jesus Christ).
1. The NT tells us that all who come to Christ are true Jews.

Galatians 3:27-29 (ESV) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Romans 2:28-29 (ESV) For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not

by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

2. All things are summed up in Christ. The very end of the Bible lays out the same invitation we see here in Isaiah.

C. When do we get this joy and peace. We get it ultimately and completely in eternity.

Revelation 22:17 (ESV) The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

1. Now we have a taste of that which is to come. This taste alone satisfies. The invitation is to satisfaction (now and forever).

Close

A. Your inheritance, if you are in Christ, is certain.

Psalms 16:11 (ESV) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1. As we come, and call, and seek (abide in Christ) we become like Christ and we will also invite others and be inviting. You don't have to. You will want others to have what you have.

B. Only Jesus Christ fully and completely satisfies.

Application Questions for Sermon on 11 January 2009

Title: Come One, Come All

Text: Isaiah 55

How would you describe your spiritual condition?

How would you like to grow in seeking after God?

When and how does prayer function in your life?

Describe how you listen to God and ways you hear Him.

Where are you most lacking in peace?