

The Bible our most Prized Possession Pt 7

Mathew 11:28

- We've talked about why the Bible is so important and what it does for all who surrender to it, this morning I want to share the call that has gone out to the world that if anyone answers they'll experience a peace that they've never encountered before. To properly understand that call one needs to read and understand the scriptures for themselves, for without it they'll misunderstand what the call means and end up going down a path that keeps them lost and in the dark, instead of what it was intending for, to have them found and walking in the light.
- **Lk 1:76-79**- were told that John the Baptist would be born into the world for one specific purpose and that is to prepare the way for Jesus, and in doing so he'll also **"give knowledge of salvation to his people"**. **"Provide light to those who sit in darkness and are going down the path to destruction"** the result will be **"they will be guided unto the path of peace"** wow!
- This came to pass when Jesus spoke these words in **Jn 8:12**- Jesus said **"I Am the Light of the world, he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life"**, also **Jn 12:46** – **"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness"**. These two statements would mean in the Jewish culture for Jesus to compare Himself to the sun that He was once again claiming to be God. In **OT** scripture the sun was a symbol of Jehovah God > **Ps 84:11**- in our universe there is only one sun, and it is the center and source of life, for without it nothing can grow or be sustained, and everything would die.
- So there is but One God, Who is the center of all things and the source of all life, and without Him everything also could not grow or be sustained and all would die as well. John's purpose was to provide a glorious invitation to all who would accept that they who once were in darkness and headed down a destructive path could avoid all that damage and come into the light where they would receive the Peace that can only come from the God of Peace.
- Just in case you get confused I am going to illustrate five different invitations that all lead to the same calling > **1st Is 55:1**- Isaiah is writing of the coming Kingdom when Jesus will rule and reign and the pain and suffering that we see and experience now will not be present then. But this is not just a verse that speaks only of the coming Kingdom, it also speaks of a threefold invitation to the Gentiles **"to come" V1-5**, **"to seek" V6-13**, and **"to worship" 56:1-8**.
- What's beautiful about this verse is the use of **"water"** which speaks of life, **"wine"** which symbolizes joy, and **"milk"** which represents growth, all three of these things you can expect to see and receive once you have truly come to Christ. Therefore Righteousness, Peace, and Joy, are available now, as the Water of Life, the Wine of Joy, and the Milk of Growth are ours for the taking, and thirst is the only prerequisite.

- **2nd Jn 7:37-38**- Jesus said “**if anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink, He who believes in Me as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water**”. When Jesus spoke this it was during “**The Feast of Tabernacles**” where Israel celebrated by first looking back at their journey through the wilderness and then looking forward to the promised Kingdom of the Messiah. They’d live in booths for a week remembering how the Lord preserved them for forty years in the dry barren wilderness and afterward rejoice thanking God for His goodness.
- On the last day of the feast the priests would march around the altar chanting **Ps 118:25** > “**save now, I pray, O Lord, O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity**”. On the last time that they poured the water out symbolizing how Moses struck the rock and it gave forth water to sustain the Israelites, Jesus then made this statement that He is the Rock that gives forth life sustaining water, and for those who follow Him the rivers of water that represented the Holy Spirit will flow deeply within and never run dry, what an amazing **promise** and **invitation**!
- **3rd Ex 32:26**- this is a remarkable invitation that Moses made to the children of Israel after receiving the ten commandments only to find that Israel had turned their backs on the lord and made a false idol to follow and go back to Egypt. In **Ex 32:7-14** the Lord told Moses what the people had done, and afterward said He would destroy them and raise up another people after his lineage, now most people would have said that sounds good to me, especially since these people have been nothing but trouble to Moses, but he interceded on their behalf pleading with the Lord to spare them, even remarking that to do this would harm the Lord’s reputation.
- **Ex 32:19-25**- Moses was so upset that he cast the ten commandments on the ground and then took the calf melted it in the fire and made them drink a golden malted milkshake. Afterward he uttered these words **V26 “Whoever is on the Lord’s side, come to me”** I love this, he doesn’t mince words or talk about his disappointment he simply asks whoever wants to serve the Lord come to me, it’s the same invitation given today by the Lord to the world, and to those who reject the invitation they also will drink for themselves that which they worshipped also.
- **4th Is 1:18**- earlier Isaiah had spoken about how religious the people were but it hadn’t effected their hearts, as they remained rebellious as ever against the Lord > **Is 1:13-15**- to the point where God said don’t bring me anymore vain sacrifices and put your hands down as its meaningless. Before we shake our heads in a recent poll it was said that **93%** of all households in America have at least one bible in it, and that there is at least one church for every **550** adults, translation there is a church on just about every corner and yet it hasn’t affected the nations crime rate, the divorce rate or the kind of entertainment seen in movies or on television.
- Thankfully Isaiah didn’t stop with the diagnosis but also gave the prescription, as he wanted Judah to be righteous people not a religious people. **V18** says “**Lets us reason together**” the word “**reason**” means “**to decide a case in court**” the difference is that instead of pronouncing judgment the Judge (God) is offering a pardon. All He’s asking is for them to come to Him, let Him wash their sins white as snow, in **V16-17** God tells the how and what that looks like, in **V19-20** God tells them the result of both receiving His request and rejecting His request.

- **5th Math 11:28**- the last Invitation we read is Jesus answering the people concerning what makes Him different from everybody else. The religious leaders of His day were all saying if you want to please God then “**do**” trying to make the people be righteous, but along comes Jesus and instead of saying “do” He says “**come**”. To “**come to Him**” simply means “**to trust Him**” and in order to do that you have to have exhausted all your energies and efforts trying to do where you’ve become so burdened down that you realize you cannot do anything someone else must.
- What’s even more amazing is that not only will Jesus “**give rest**” **V28**, but if we’re willing to go deeper with Him “**we find rest**” **V29**. All that’s requires is that we take His yoke and learn from Him, that simply means instead of trying to do things our way, we sit at His feet and learn to do things His way, and what we’ll find is its much easier and better, as it leads to blessings and not burdens.