

Satisfying the Thirst

Isaiah 55:1-5

Is. 55:1-3 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

I. The Tragedy of Desires

Is. 55:1-2 Come, **everyone who thirsts**, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Gen. 2:7 Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became **a living creature**.

By making themselves the center and purpose of their lives, people have become slaves to desires that can never be satisfied.

Ekkl. 2:10-11 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, **all was vanity and a striving after wind**, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

*Scientists are adamant that as we push the stress level and exciting stimulation higher and higher, we are literally overloading the pathways to the pleasure center of the brain. This overload causes our brain's pleasure center to demand **a further increase in the level of stimulation** before delivering more feelings of pleasure.*

*This results in **a decline** in our pleasure system's **ability to deliver enjoyment out of ordinary, simple things**¹.*

Our continuous pursuit of high stimulation is snuffing out our ability to experience genuine pleasure in simple things.²

¹ Hart, Archibald D. . *Thrilled to Death: How the Endless Pursuit of Pleasure Is Leaving Us Numb* (p. 17). Kindle Edition.

² Hart, Archibald D. Hart. *Thrilled to Death: How the Endless Pursuit of Pleasure Is Leaving Us Numb* (p. 16). Kindle Edition.

Non-sinful desires

Desire → Attainment → Pleasure → Adaptation → Desire for more → Attainment → Pleasure → Adaptation → Desire for even more → Attainment → Pleasure → Adaptation...

Ekk1. 1:8 ...the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ekk1. 6:7 All the toil of man is for his mouth, **yet his appetite (nefesh) is not satisfied.**

Sinful desires

Desire → Attainment → Pleasure → Shame and emptiness → Desire for more → Attainment → Pleasure → Shame and emptiness → Adaptation → Desire for even more → Attainment → Pleasure → Shame and emptiness → Adaptation...

If shame and emptiness are not followed by genuine repentance—a turning away from sin and a reorientation of the heart toward finding joy and satisfaction in God—they will inevitably lead to even stronger desires, the pursuit of more intense stimulation, and, as a result, an even deeper descent into sin.

Is. 55:2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Jer. 2:12-13 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Eph. 4:17-19 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, **that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do**, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They **have become callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, **greedy to** practice **every kind of impurity.**

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

John 4:13-14 Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

II. God's Solution

Is. 55:1-3 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

A. The New Covenant

Is. 55:2-3 Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

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

Ps. 62:1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

John 6:35 I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Rom. 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ezek. 37:26-27 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Rev. 21:3-4 Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away..

B. The New Way

- Come

Is. 55:1-3 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David

Mat. 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Luke 15:17-20 But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **I will arise and go to my father**, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And **he arose and came to his father**.

Come to God for salvation.

Come to Him for abundant life.

Come to Him in times of difficulty.

Come to Him when you need answers to your problems.

Come to Him to find peace for your heart.

Come to Him to find joy and hope, confidence and strength.

- **Listen**

Is. 55:2-3 **Listen diligently to me**, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. **Incline your ear**, and come to me; **hear**, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Josh. 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Ps. 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and **on his law he meditates day and night**. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Rom. 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern **what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect**.

- **Taste**

Is. 55:1-3 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, **buy** and eat! Come, **buy** wine and milk **without money** and **without price**. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

John 8:31-32 If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Is. 55:1-3 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and **eat**! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and **eat what is good**, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Heb. 4:2-3 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not **united by faith** with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest.

Luke 8:15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, **hold it fast** in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Is. 55:2-3 Listen diligently to me, and **eat what is good**, and **delight yourselves** in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Ps. 16:8-11 I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ...You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

«... for fallen humanity God's desirability is in competition with His created beauties. Created beauty eclipses God's beauty in the desire factory of man's heart. It is a case of mistaken identity. Every created beauty was created by God to lead our affections to Him. That's why He made the pleasures of earthly beauty so fleeting—so that on the other side of the pleasure we might experience either wonder and worship and ultimate satisfaction in God or the pursuit of the pleasure that beauty provides for its own sake. If we choose the latter, we will only be disappointed again.»³

³ Steve DeWitt, *Eyes Wide Open*, 195