



Sermon Notes 4/21/24

"Reboot"

Why must we spiritually reboot our lives?

1. God's ways are better than _____.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Isaiah 55:1-2

Matthew 7:13-14

2. God's word never _____.

Isaiah 55:10-11

Isaiah 40:6-8

2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. God's blessings are _____.

Isaiah 55:12-13

Isaiah 55:6-7

1 Peter 1:3-5



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 50: April 21-28

Isaiah 55

In Isaiah 53, we see detailed prophecies describing the suffering and death of God's Servant as well as His resurrection. In chapter 54, we see the rich blessings the Servant made available to us through His sacrifice. And here, in chapter 55, we see God's generous invitation for all people to come and receive His blessings free of charge. However, this chapter is not only a generous invitation, but also an urgent warning for all people to turn away from sin. Like the notifications we get when our phone or computer needs to update its operating system, God is urging us to spiritually reboot our lives.

Read Isaiah 55

1. What does God offer to those who are thirsty even if they have no money? (55:1) How did Jesus use this image in John 7:37-39?

Ray Ortlund observes,

Isaiah 55:1 lies so close to the heart of God, it reappears at the very end of the Bible as God's final word to us all until Christ returns (Revelation 22:17). This is the message God wants every member of the human race to hear. What is he saying? "Don't just sit there thinking about this, theorizing, hesitating, making excuses. Get up. Come over here. I have rich spiritual privilege prepared for you. Buy in—though Someone Else has already paid your bill." (Ortlund, 367)

2. According to verse 2, what does it mean to "eat what is good"?

Throughout the book, Isaiah has been telling the people of Judah to trust in the LORD and obey His word. However, most of the people have been ignoring the words of the prophet. Terry Briley notes,

For this reason, Israel is emphatically exhorted to listen in order to eat what is good. Early on God established the priority of his word over bread. In Deuteronomy 8:3 Moses explains that God had allowed the people to experience hunger and then had fed them in order to teach them "that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Briley, 234)

3. What does God command us to do in verse 3 so that we may live?

Four times in verse 1, God commands us to come and receive His blessings. Here in verse 3, we are commanded to come to Him and listen to Him. To hear (שמע, *shema*), includes both listening to and obeying God's word. James Smith writes,

God promised that those who come unto him would “live,” i.e., have life more abundant. This new gift of life would be part of a new and enduring covenant which included all the blessings which had been promised to David. Among those blessings the eternal rule of the Messiah, descendant of David, was paramount (55:1–3). (Smith, 151)

4. How did God describe the covenant He promised to make with us? (55:3)

Briley comments,

The goal of the Davidic messiah to reach out to the nations in verses 4-5 explains why God remains faithful to his covenant promise to David, but it also demonstrates how this anointed one embodies Israel's calling to the nations (Gen 12:2-3; Exod 19:5-6) and it connects him to the servant (Isa 42:6-7; 49:6; 52:15). (Briley, 235)

5. What did God promise to do for David in verse 4?

6. What did God promise to do for Israel in verse 5?

7. What urgent warning did God give to His people in verse 6?

Ortlund shares the following exhortation about “seeking the Lord.”

To “seek” the Lord is to stop dawdling and to become intentional about him, setting highest value on him, removing everything that keeps us from him, hearing his Word without back-talk, opening up to his will with no preconditions, budgeting our money for his cause first—the ever-widening circle is endless. Seeking the Lord is a whole-life realignment with Christ. We stop treating him as a religious garnish on the side. He becomes our continual feast, our defining center. And the time to move in his direction is *now*. (Ortlund, 371)

8. What did God promise to those who repent of their sins? (55:7)

9. What reasons did God provide for people to forsake their wicked ways and turn to Him? (55:7-8)

In the last half of the chapter, God gives us several good reasons to repent of our sins and come to Him. Briley writes,

God's offer of pardon should provide sufficient motivation for seeking him, but the remaining verses in the chapter further substantiate the call to partake of his grace. Verses 8, 10, and 12 each open with the word "for" (כִּי, kî), although the NIV only translates the first occurrence. (Briley, 237)

10. How did God describe the difference between His thoughts and ways with ours? (55:8-9)

11. How is God's Word like snow and rain? (55:10-11)

12. How does the word of God motivate us and empower us to turn away from sin and come Him? (55:10-11)

13. How does Isaiah describe the joy and peace that God wants us to have? (55:12-13)

14. How do the blessings of God motivate us and empower us to turn away from sin and come Him? (55:12-13)

15. How are many people today spending money on spiritual beliefs and practices that do not satisfy?

16. What does it mean to seek the Lord?

17. When do we need to remind ourselves that God's ways are not our ways?

18. How can you remind yourself of the effectiveness of God's word this coming week?

Sources cited:

Briley, Terry R. *Isaiah: Volume 2*. College Press, 2004.

Ortlund, Ray. *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*. Crossway, 2005.

Smith, James. *The Major Prophets*. College Press, 1992.