



Rehearsing the Word

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Overall Theme:

In light of Prophet David Kelly's Word for us, Isaiah 54 will play a vital role in our identity and purpose as a house moving into the year of 2024. Sunday's message just scratched the surface of providing a background and context for Yahweh's Word through the prophet Isaiah to the ten northern tribes of Israel. Generally, the problem Yahweh has with His people was idolatry, but more specifically was the fact that as a nation, Israel would influence all the nations of the world with how they released the image of their ONE TRUE GOD versus all the idolatrous nations. Sadly, Israel submitted to pagan gods and forfeited their divine purpose. Yahweh sent the prophet Isaiah to point them in the right direction and give them a view of His redemption when they turned their hearts toward Him.

In the first several verses, it appears the prophet is addressing barren women, but in fact he is addressing a barren nation that has been given every resource to fulfill their role as Yahweh's holy nation.

The following is some in-depth translation of this passage:

"Sing [shout joyfully], O barren [condition due to idolatry that always produces debt],

You *who* have not borne [fulfilled your Yahweh-given purpose]!

Break forth [shouting in jubilation until something breaks] into singing, and **cry aloud**,

You *who* have not labored with child! For more *are* the children of the desolate [astonished, maligned, not religious] Than the children of the married woman [older son in prodigal story, proselyte, religious, two-fold child of hell]," says the Lord. 2

"Enlarge [increase capacity, make room for more, open your heart wide, gain living space] the place of your tent, And let them **stretch out** the curtains of your dwellings [extend your hand; It has the figurative sense of inclining one's heart and mind a certain way, of giving attention]

Do not spare [withhold nothing, retain nothing, no long wandering in error; the lost];

Lengthen [tarry, draw out] your cords, And **strengthen** [to overpower] your stakes [CROSS].

3 For you shall **expand** [withhold nothing, retain nothing, no long wandering in error...reach the lost at any cost] to the right and to the left, **And your descendants will inherit the nations**,

And make the desolate cities [without kingdom purpose] inhabited. 4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed [embarrassment associated with making a wrong choice]; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame [humiliation and embarrassment] of your youth,

And will not remember the reproach [to be taunted by an enemy] of your widowhood anymore.

Because of the density of this passage, we mainly addressed the idea of the nation singing with anticipation of fulfilling their purpose and breaking forth in jubilation and crying aloud until the idolatry breaks and gives way to their role as image-bearers. From here, the instruction is to "enlarge", "stretch out", "lengthen", "strengthen" and "expand" as your descendant will inherit the nations. Finally, Yahweh addresses and promises to remove the fear, shame, disgrace and reproach of their idolatry.

Whether we like it or not, whether we believe it or not, we can forfeit our divine role as image-bearers for idolatry without consciously realizing it. Our nation is so idolatrous, there are many heart positions and decisions we make every day that seem acceptable and “right”, but are absolutely abominable to our God.

Discussion Questions:

According to Jack Hayford, an idol is anything that even slightly lessens your worship, service and devotion to Yahweh. Idols begin as heart desires that gratify self and begin to diminish one’s view of Yahweh and willingness to submit and yield to His heart and ways.

- 1) In a world that is idolatrous and self-indulging on just about every level, how difficult is it to establish a heart of worship that sets everything else in its rightful place and priority? Explain.
- 2) List your personal priorities and not how they have changed just in the past few years. Has your life become simpler or more congested and complicated?
- 3) Just as Israel was tasked and graced to share their God, Yahweh, with all the other nations, how “evangelistic” are you in sharing your faith with others?
- 4) When trying to identify a “Christian” today, there are thousands of variations of opinion as to what constitutes a person who has surrendered their heart to Yahweh through Yahshua the Christ. How open are you to others who may represent a version of Christ that is vastly different than your own? Explain with a remembrance of your path from where you started to where you are today.
- 5) Discuss these four actions: praise, process, pray and prophesy.

Appropriations:

Father, just as Yahshua graciously ministered to a nation that was totally deceived in their idolatry and hypocrisy, please point out the same to me with mercy, grace and truth. You resist the proud and give grace to the humble and I position myself for the Spirit of Truth to reveal to me areas of my life that have been compromised by this world and its trappings. Begin a process within me that brings me to a place of speaking the truth in love, with mercy and grace for those to whom you send me. I will enlarge the capacity of my heart and begin to expand the borders of my faith to connect heaven and earth together as ONE. For the KING and His GLORY!!