



Date: 07-19-2026

Sermon: The Family with an Open Door

Text: Isaiah 56:1-8 NLT

The question Isaiah 56 places before us is:

What should the family of God look like after it has experienced the grace of God?

1. God Calls His Family to _____ His Character.

Isaiah 56:1-2 NLT

1 This is what the LORD says: "Be just and fair to all. Do what is right and good, for I am coming soon to rescue you and to display my righteousness among you. 2 Blessed are all those who are careful to do this. Blessed are those who honor my Sabbath days of rest and keep themselves from doing wrong.

Notes:

Principle

People should be able to see the character of God through the conduct of God's family.

2. God Speaks Hope to Those Who Feel _____.

Isaiah 56:3 NLT

3 "Don't let foreigners who commit themselves to the LORD say, 'The LORD will never let me be part of his people.' And don't let the eunuchs say, 'I'm a dried-up tree with no children and no future.'"

Notes:

Principle

God does not define people by the labels that society places upon them.

3. God Gives _____ and a _____ to Those Others Overlook.

Isaiah 56:4-5 NLT

4 For this is what the LORD says: I will bless those eunuchs who keep my Sabbath days holy and who choose to do what pleases me and commit their lives to me. 5 I will give them--within the walls of my house--a memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give. For the name I give them is an everlasting one. It will never disappear!

Notes:

Principle

No person is insignificant when God gives them a name and a place in His family.

4. God Draws _____ into Relationship with Himself.

Isaiah 56:6-7 NLT

6 "I will also bless the foreigners who commit themselves to the LORD, who serve him and love his name, who worship him and do not desecrate the Sabbath day of rest, and who hold fast to my covenant. 7 I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of

prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

Notes:

Principle

God's house should help people come near to God, not make them feel that they must remain far away.

5. God Is Still Gathering _____.

Isaiah 56:8 NLT

8 For the Sovereign LORD, who brings back the outcasts of Israel, says: I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel."

Notes:

Bottom Line

Because God welcomed us, we must make room for others.

Ask yourself:

1. Who do I naturally overlook?
2. Have I confused my preferences with God's standards?
3. Do outsiders experience curiosity or judgment from me?
4. Am I inviting others?
5. Am I willing to make space?

Who is the “other” God may be asking you to welcome?

Expanded Notes

Isaiah 56:1–8 — The Family with an Open Door

Context of Isaiah 56

- Isaiah 56 begins the final major section of the book, Isaiah 56–66.
- Isaiah 1–39 warned Judah that rebellion, injustice, and idolatry would lead to judgment. Jerusalem would fall, the temple would be destroyed, and many people would be taken into exile.
- Isaiah 40–55 shifts toward comfort and restoration. God promises to rescue His people and bring them home.

Isaiah 56 then asks:

What should God's people look like after they have experienced His rescue?

- Returning to the land was not enough. God wanted a restored community marked by justice, obedience, faithfulness, and welcome.

Isaiah 56 also follows the broad invitation of Isaiah 55:

“Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink.”

—Isaiah 55:1 NLT

- Isaiah 56 shows that this invitation extends beyond ethnic Israel. Foreigners and eunuchs, people who may have assumed they were excluded, are invited to belong among God's covenant people.

Isaiah 56:1–2 — A Faithful Community

God commands His people to be just, fair, right, and good.

Their obedience does not earn salvation. They are to live faithfully because God is coming to rescue them and display His righteousness.

Justice and righteousness are major themes throughout Isaiah. God expects His people to treat others in a way that reflects His character.

Cross-Reference: Isaiah 1:17

“Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed.”

The Sabbath also represented covenant faithfulness. It reminded Israel that God was their Creator, Provider, and Rescuer.

Cross-References

- **Exodus 20:8–11:** Sabbath connected to creation.
- **Deuteronomy 5:12–15:** Sabbath connected to rescue from slavery.

The restored community was to be known not only by what it believed, but by how it lived.

Isaiah 56:3–5 — Hope for the Eunuch

In the ancient world, children carried on a person’s family name, inheritance, and legacy.

Because eunuchs could not have children, they could be viewed as people without a future. This explains the statement:

“I’m a dried-up tree with no children and no future.”

Deuteronomy 23:1 also contained restrictions concerning eunuchs in Israel’s assembly, which may have added to their sense of exclusion.

God promises faithful eunuchs something greater than biological descendants could provide:

“A memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give.”

God gives them an everlasting name and a permanent place in His house.

The culture may have considered them forgotten, but God did not.

The passage reminds us that a person's value is not determined by family status, physical ability, social position, or what society believes they can contribute.

Isaiah 56:6–7 — Foreigners Welcomed

Foreigners were people outside the ethnic nation of Israel. They may have worshiped Israel's God while still wondering whether they could ever truly belong.

God describes foreigners who:

- Commit themselves to Him
- Serve Him
- Love His name
- Worship Him
- Hold firmly to His covenant

God promises to bring them near, fill them with joy, and accept their worship.

This would have been a powerful message to people who feared rejection.

God declares:

“My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Israel had been chosen by God, but not only for its own benefit.

Cross-Reference: Genesis 12:3

God promised Abraham:

“All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

Cross-Reference: 1 Kings 8:41–43

Solomon prayed that foreigners who came to the temple would be heard by God so that all nations might know His name.

God's purpose was always larger than one nation.

New Testament Connection

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Jesus quotes Isaiah 56:7 in Mark 11:17:

“My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

The temple was supposed to help people draw near to God, but corrupt religious practices had created barriers.

Jesus' words challenge God's people to consider whether their traditions and preferences help outsiders encounter God or make it more difficult.

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8 provides a strong connection to Isaiah 56.

Philip meets an Ethiopian eunuch who is returning from worship in Jerusalem and reading Isaiah 53.

Philip explains the gospel, and the eunuch believes and is baptized.

This man was:

- A foreigner
- A eunuch
- A worshiper
- A reader of Isaiah
- An outsider welcomed through Jesus

Isaiah promised eunuchs and foreigners a place among God's people. Acts 8 shows that promise being fulfilled through the gospel.

Gentiles Brought Near

Ephesians 2:12–19 says that Gentiles were once strangers and outsiders, but through Christ they have been brought near.

Paul concludes:

“You are members of God's family.”

Most believers today are among the “others” God promised to gather.

We were not brought into God's family because of our background. We were brought near through grace.

Isaiah 56:8 — God Is Still Gathering

God says:

“I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel.”

God is the One who gathers the outcasts of Israel, but His work does not stop there.

Cross-Reference: John 10:16

Jesus says:

“I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also.”

God's plan is to gather people from every nation into one family under one Shepherd.

Isaiah 56 presents God's restored family as faithful, just, and welcoming.

God speaks directly to people who fear that they do not belong and promises them a name, a future, and a place in His house.

This promise points forward to Jesus, who brings outsiders near and makes them members of God's family.

Because God welcomed us, we must make room for others.