

Isaiah 55:1-5

(1) "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. {2} Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. {3} Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. {4} See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. {5} Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

Thirsty, hungry, need Jesus

Listen to me that your soul may live

I. Our desire to live

A. Basic desires of humans

1. Thirst
2. Hunger
3. Satisfaction

B. How we try to achieve desires

1. Work
2. Work
3. Work

C. God's evaluation

1. These won't make us satisfied
2. Humans need a relationship with God (eternal life)

II. God's "No-strings-attached" offer of life

A. Wording of the offer

1. Pictures: water, eat. wine, milk
2. Offered without cost

B. Offer consists of

1. Blessings for souls
2. Richest of fare

C. Offer comes through

1. As a gift
2. Through word

III. Basis of God's offer: His Covenant

A. Promised to David

1. Savior to come through him
2. Everlasting agreement

B. Who is "Him"

1. Witness not equal to David
2. Leader = attracter

C. Jesus

1. Witness, leader, ruler, glorious
2. Attractor
3. Messiah's work
4. Jesus = bread & water of life

God wants us to live. Listen to Him so that we might.

IA1 We as humans have some basic desires. Name one. Thirst. Why has God placed in us that basic desire? We are water based organisms. All of our tissues need water in order to live. No water means dehydration means system failure means death. Thirst is really then an expression of our desire to live.

2 Name another. Hunger. Why has God placed in us that basic desire? We are organisms which need fuel to operate. Without fuel our bodily systems don't function adequately. Then they stop functioning altogether. Hunger is part of our desire to live.

3 A third need implied in the words before us is the need for satisfaction. What results in our lives if we are dissatisfied? Stress. Emotional turmoil. That can be as debilitating as disease. Desire for satisfaction is part of our desire to live.

B1 How do we attempt to take care of those basic needs? We get educated, we get a job, we go to work every day in order to have the resources to take care of our thirst and our hunger.

2 We get educated, we get a job, we go to work every day in order to get the resources to provide ourselves with security. Whether it is physical safety or job security, security is a big part of having satisfaction.

3 We also get educated, we get a job, we go to work every day in order to have the resources to provide ourselves with enjoyment in life. Whether it is recreational or artistic, enjoyment in life is a big part of having satisfaction.

C1 To us here this morning - people who have basic needs of water, food and satisfaction - the Lord comes with a question. {2} Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? God knows that if we had all the water and all the food and all the security and all the satisfaction from earthly security and earthly enjoyment, we wouldn't be satisfied.

2 Why not? Because He knows what does give us satisfaction. Why? Because He made us. He gave us a need for a life filled with an unending relationship with Him. Without that relationship we will never be satisfied. He created Adam and Eve with an expectation to live forever in that perfect, unending relationship with Him. Sinful human beings have not lost that desire to have a perfect, unending relationship with Him. Food, drink, security and enjoyment don't satisfy our desire that our souls might live.

IIA1 To us who have basic needs God says: (1) "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters." He has something to satisfy our thirst. "Come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk." He has something to satisfy our hunger.

2 What is strange about this offer? "You who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." How would we say that? These things are free. We don't have to use our money to buy them. They are gifts from God.

B1 What other comment tells you that these are not ordinary food, drink and security items? "Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. {3} Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live." The Lord is offering us something which satisfies our souls, not our bodies. Our spiritual needs, not our physical needs. He is offering something which gives our souls joy and makes it possible for our souls to live.

2 What is offered? The richest of fare. The best blessings available for our souls. The blessings which provide an everlasting solution to our needs. We know what those blessings are. God solves our spiritual thirst for a relationship with Him by giving us the forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness which Jesus won by dying on the cross makes a relationship with God possible. He solves our spiritual hunger for security by giving us Jesus' holiness. Jesus lived it and gives it to us so we can have a relationship with a holy God. He solves our hunger and thirst for an

eternal existence by giving us eternal life. Jesus won that for us by rising from the dead. Those blessings from Jesus are the riches of fare in which our souls delight.

C1 Now remember God says: (1) "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. God is saying to us: "You don't have to buy these blessings. You don't have to show yourself worthy of these blessings. You don't have to work yourself into a position where you have earned the right to these blessings. They are gifts. No strings attached. You want spiritual life. I give it. You want eternal security. I give it. Come and get it."

2 How does God deliver these gifts into our lives? "Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. {3} Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live." These blessings get delivered into our lives through words. But not just ordinary words. Words from God. If God would not tell us about forgiveness and righteousness and eternal life through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we would not know about them. If God would not give those blessings to us through His words, we would not have them. God takes care of our need for spiritual satisfaction by giving us Jesus' blessings through His Word.

IIIA1 Why can He do that? "I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David." That is just a fancy way of saying, "I promise to do it. It's the same promise which my love gave to David." What promise did God make to David? God promised David that one of His descendants would sit on his throne forever. We know Jesus is that descendant of David.

2 What does God commit Himself to do for His people based on His promise to David? Because of Jesus the Savior, promised to David, God promises to give forgiveness of sins, righteousness, and eternal life to people. How long is that commitment good for? It is everlasting.

B1 "I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. {4} See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples." Who is the "him" in this sentence? David was just mentioned. Is it David? David was long dead when Isaiah wrote this. Can't be David.

2{4} See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. {5} Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." This "Him" is to be a witness to the people. He is to bring the truth of God to the people. He is to be a leader, leading people on the pathway of God's direction. He is to be a commander, ruler over the people for their benefit. He is to be an attracter of people from all over the world to the Lord of Israel. He will be able to do that because the Lord has endowed Him with splendor - He deserves praise because of who He is.

C1 Who is the "him"? We know Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to David and His commitment to us. That would be an easy switch from "everlasting covenant" to "him". Does Jesus fit these descriptions of this "him"? Jesus brought us the truth of God about us and about God. He is a witness without equal. He leads us to God and leads us to be godly through His Word given to us in the Scriptures. The ultimate leader. He rules in our hearts through His Word and rules our world with His power. No other commander like that. Since He is true God from eternity, He has the splendor of God and deserves our praise.

2 Jesus offers forgiveness of sins to all people because of His death. He offers holiness to

all people because of His perfect life. He offers eternal life to all people because of His resurrection. He attracts people of all nations, of all ethnic backgrounds, to the family of the Lord of Israel by offering them these blessings.

3 Jesus died to suffer the death and hell we deserve to rescue us from it. He lived a holy life as our Substitute to give us His holiness so we can be acceptable to God. He rose from the dead so death isn't punishment for sin for us anymore. Because He did those things, He is the fulfillment of the promise to David. He is the covenant. He can be our witness, leader, commander and attracter.

4 Did Jesus ever say anything like, "I am what God promised through Isaiah?" Yes. He did. He said He was the solution to our spiritual hunger and thirst and need for satisfaction. Do you want to hear His words? I am the bread of life. I am the water of life. He who eats and drinks of me will never hunger or thirst. Come to me for rest. Be of good cheer your sins are forgiven.

Conc. Do you want to live? God wants you to live. He gives you everything you need for spiritual and eternal life. They are gifts based on His everlasting promise which He fulfilled in Jesus Christ. That's why God says to you today: {3} Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.