

Full & Free

God's Heart for the Salvation of Sinners

Isaiah 55

April 18, 2021

Opening ILL: What makes garage sales so compelling? Good stuff for really cheap prices. Or...sometimes...not so good stuff and "make me buy it" prices. What compels garage sales? Getting something for nothing or finding a treasure among the trash. We love deals.

I. Introduction

- A. If it's for free, it's for me!
- B. If it's for free, how good can it be?

II. An Invitation (v. 1)

- A. Who can come?
 - 1. All who thirst. Don't miss this!!
 - a) There are no moral preconditions.
 - b) There are no ceremonial preconditions.
 - c) There are no financial preconditions.

Point: O unbeliever! It is not your unworthiness, but your un-thirstiness that renders your heart dead and unmoved.

- 2. The only thing that you need to bring to the table is your desire.
 - a) **ILL:** "What should I bring?" Answer: "Only your appetite!"

- B. What does it cost?
 - 1. It is full and free!
 - a) That is to say that it is complete.
 - b) That is to say that there is no cost to you.

Quote: But now, as he is full, he is free. Nothing pleases him better than to give what he has away; then to bestow it upon the poor and needy. **John Bunyan** cited in *Dane Ortlund gentle and lowly* page 81

III. An Indictment (v. 2)

- A. Why do you waste your resources?

Quote: "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."— *C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*

- 1. Important point: God is not saying, "The money you could have used to buy my love is squandered, so I guess I have to give you a deal." Instead, he is saying, "Even if you had resources, you would squander them because you delight in unsatisfying things more than in Me."
- 2. This is a rhetorical question. God is drawing them out with this question.

- B. Why would you pause? Delight yourself in abundance!
 - 1. We "repay" God by enjoying what He provides.
 - 2. **ILL:** How do you really thank your Mom for cooking dinner? How do you really thank your parents for your Christmas gifts? You enjoy them. I have said this to my kids over and over. "You can repay me by enjoying this gift."

IV. An Inclination (v. 3)

- A. Incline your heart to God!
 - 1. What does this mean?
 - a) This means that the heart is where the problem lies in the first place!
 - b) This means that a change is required, not primarily in our actions, but in our affections!

2. How can I do this?
 - a) Are you thirsty for this inclination? Go to God!
 - b) Take even your lack of desire to the sovereign master of souls.
 - a. Just as the man famously said, "I believe. Help my unbelief," so our Lord will bless the smallest, genuine desire to desire to be saved!

B. An everlasting covenant!

1. Who makes this covenant?
 - a) God will do this!
 - b) God will commit!
2. How long will it last?
 - a) It will last forever.

V. An Inclusion (vv. 4-5)

A. I have made him a witness!

1. Who is being talked about?
 - a) Primarily David himself.
 - b) Secondly, the whole Davidic kingdom.
2. Who does this lead us to?
 - a) The ultimate Davidic King!

B. A nation will run to you!

1. The whole world will become thirsty for the glory of God.
2. The whole world will come to His people for instruction.
 - a) **Isaiah 2:2-3** Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

VI. An Entreaty (vv. 6-9)

A. Seek the Lord while there is time.

Point: Never wait for the invitation. Now. Now!! Every word of this sermon is meant to be an entreaty...an invitation. Come to Jesus!

1. This calls you to action.
2. This reminds you that this is a limited time offer!
 - a) Appointed for men to die once... (Hebrews 9:27)
 - b) **Hebrews 12:16-17** that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

B. Forsake your wicked way!

1. What does this mean?
2. Why? "For He will abundantly pardon"
 - a) Abundantly! Romans 5 "much more"

VII. An Inevitability (vv. 10-11)

A. God's word is never wasted!

1. What does this mean? What word is being referred to?
2. This seems to me to be His word of decree. That is what He commands.
 - a) Genesis 1—Let there be light..
3. Secondly, though, it can apply to everything God says.

VIII. An Incitement (vv. 12-13)

- A. You will go out with joy!
- B. You will go out having been changed!
- C. You will go out having been changed forever!

IX. One Conclusion--Invitation

- A. You may be thinking, "If it's for free, how good could it be?"
- B. You may be thinking, "If it's for free, it's for me!"