

ii. Instead of the thornbush and briars will grow two evergreen trees, the pine and myrtle.

- Genesis 3:17-18

- Galatians 5:19-23

Through the Gospel Christ calls the thirsty, the poor, the weary to himself. He calls the wicked and evil man to turn from His ways and exchange those for His. And for those who come and drink, from Him flows a river of life transforming power turning the desert into a garden before them.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How do Isaiah 53, 54, and 55 work together to tell the Gospel?
- Who is doing the inviting of Isaiah 55:1-2? Why is the doctrine of the Trinity helpful here?
- Who is being invited in this chapter to come to waters of Christ? Discuss what this means to you.
- Why do you think it's important to understand the call to seek, call, and turn of 55:6 as response to the call of 55:1?
- How can we know that the call to seek and turn to the Lord comes with a promise that He will be found and answer?
- Why do you think it is important to remember that repentance is always a call to Jesus, a call to free and abundant pardon, not just a turning from sin and self?
- What are the three reasons we are given (8, 9, 10) as to why we must seek the Lord, turn to Him, call on Him? How does each help persuade us to respond appropriately?
- In 55:12-13 we see the transforming power of the Gospel to remove the curse of sin in poetic form. What does the picture of thorn bushes call to mind (biblically, personally)? Looking at Galatians 5:19-23, in which areas would your life still be full of thorns and briars, and what might seeking the Lord, calling on Him in this area for the fruit of the Spirit look like for you?

The Gospel Appeals, Persuades and Produces

Jerry Cisar — August 28, 2011

Text: Isaiah 55

Introduction

Isaiah 55 is a proposal to the prospective bride, with detailed explanations as to how to respond.

I. The Gospel Appeals (55:1-2a; 6-7)

A. *Hey, Come to the waters!* (1a)

- i. Throughout Isaiah, the waters have symbolized the promised Holy Spirit that would be poured out on the dry land. Now that the Servant has done His work, the invitation to the thirsty are invited to come drink.

a) Who is this inviter?

- Isaiah 50:10, 51:1,4,7

➤ John 7:37

- Trinitarian complexity: *undivided being / distinguishable persons.*

b) Who is invited?

- Those without a means of barter.

➤ Acts 8:20

ii. *Without money, without payment*

- Isaiah 52:3

B. Seek the Lord... Call on Him...

Motyer: *“Seek is used not in the sense of looking for what is lost but of coming with commitment to one known to be there.”*

- Hebrews 10:19, 22; 11:6

ii. *While He may be found... while He is near...*

- Hebrews 4:7

God here is calling us to change what we seek, and receive it!

iii. Mercy and free pardon

- Isaiah 53:5

- Repentance is always ultimately *a call to Jesus!*

II. The Gospel Persuades (55:2b-3, 8-11)

A. *Listen, Listen to me.*

- An everlasting covenant of faithful love

- Psalm 89:1-4

B. Constant persuasion of why we need to constantly *listen*.

i. My thoughts and ways are not your thoughts and ways!

- Proverbs 14:12; 16:25

ii. My thoughts and ways are higher than yours!

a) The Word comes across a vast gulf.

b) Not only is the distance vast, the quality is superior!

iii. My Word will come and accomplish all I have promised!

- John 1:1, 14

III. The Gospel Produces (55:4-5, 12-13)

A. The Servant's call to the thirsty will have world-wide impact.

The Servant's work accomplished in Is. 53, produces the Gospel promises of Is. 54, which empowers the Gospel Call of this Is. 55. Here we glimpse the outcome.

B. The World Transforming Effect of the Gospel

i. When we turn to the Lord, seeking Him, calling on Him, the same world that bows before Christ will be transformed before our eyes as we proclaim peace in Christ.