

#### IV. A Totally Unexpected Wickedness (56:9-12)

A. *Come all you beasts of the field, eat and devour...*

- i. Watchmen—blind; watchdogs—can't bark!
- ii. 3 problems listed (10-11)
  - a) lit. ***they do not know***
  - b) lit. ***they do not know satisfaction***
  - c) lit. ***they do not know discernment***

➤ Matthew 7:23

B. Who is being devoured?

#### 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.*

- Have you ever felt excluded either because, like the *foreigner*, you felt there was no way God would choose you, or because, like the eunuch, you had so damaged God's image in which you were made that you were too far gone?
- What is so upside-down about the righteousness and blessings described in this chapter compared to expectations?
- On the sabbath, God ceased from the works of creation. What does the blessed man of vs. 2 cease from? How might the story of Mary and Martha be an example of this (Luke 10:38f)?
- Both the eunuchs and foreigners are said to hold fast the covenant. What covenant? Why is this significant?
- Why might the righteousness of this chapter be described as being God-centered and responsive to God's mercy?

#### Upside Down Expectations

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Text: Isaiah 56

#### Upside Down Kingdom with Upside Down Expectations

➤ Luke 10:25ff

#### I. The Totally Unexpected Blessed Man (56:1-3)

A. *Blessed is the man...*

i. Psalm 1:1-2

ii. Matthew 5:3-5

iii. ***Blessed is the man who does this, the son of man (lit) who holds it fast.***

a) vs. 1 *Maintains justice and does what is right.*

- Who is this man who does righteousness?
- What is the *justice* and *right* he does?

B. (3) ***the foreigner and the eunuch.***

➤ Deuteronomy 23

## II. A Totally Unexpected Righteousness: (2-8)

- A. *who keeps the Sabbath...  
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.*

*The sabbath involved ceasing activities... here we see just what activities needed to be ceased: resting from our wicked works just as God rested from doing His work of creation.*

Ray Ortlund: *The Sabbath is not keeping our hands from doing **any** activity. **The real Sabbath is keeping our hands from doing any evil.** A true Sabbath rest is busy with justice and righteousness.*

- B. For the eunuchs:

- i. who keep **my** Sabbaths, choose what **pleases me**, hold fast to **my** covenant
- ii. The life of righteousness is not merely the ceasing of our evil works, but the entering in by grace to the life God directs and enables.
- iii. They do this clinging to “my covenant”.

➤ Isaiah 42:6; 49:8; 54:10; 55:3

- C. Foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord.

- i. ...to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him...

➤ Isaiah 66:20-21

*Righteousness involves love for God, of worship to Him.  
This is an overflowing life of one who has received mercy.*

- ii. The foreigner is also *keeping the Sabbath and holding fast to the covenant:*

## III. A Totally Unexpected Promise

- A. vs. 5 *a name and memory in the very temple itself*

- B. vs. 7 *the foreigners are welcome to the place where the Lord dwells (my holy mountain), into a very personal place: his house of prayer—the place of his presence and family.*

➤ Psalm 43:3