

Isaiah 55 – A Certain Future

In a house with three young kids party invitations are a big deal. It looks like our fridge is wallpapered with invitations. Invitations are a reflection of the stage of life you are in. We all love to receive invitations. God gives us all an invitation to come to him. know I can ignore God's invitation or make excuses.

In Isaiah 55 we have ***an open invitation from God to the whole world to come to him and be satisfied and know where you are going.***

This is the last in our series in Isaiah 40-55. God through Isaiah has been telling his people to trust in him alone. Let's now look at Isaiah 55.

1. The Invitation

Read: v.1

Come God says. Come, come, come, come.

He is giving an invitation.

Isaiah asks a question to make the invitation clear.

v.2

It will cost you nothing. Why? because you don't pay to go to party's someone else does. Unlike unbelief which is costly to you and so unsatisfying.

This is why I love being invited to weddings. You get to hang out with your friends not even at their expense but someone else's.

So it is with God.

The servant of Isaiah 53 has paid the price. So it's free for you.

You are guaranteed a good time. vv.2-3 Satisfying. It is not physical but spiritual.

It is an open invitation to the world.

For God's people who were in terrible circumstances this would have been a fantastic invitation.

That's the invitation but why would you come?

2. Reasons to come

God's ways are not our ways

v.7-8

It would be easy to think this is about how God is beyond us. He is incomprehensible which he is. But I think it is related to what Isaiah says about how God would freely pardon.

Where we would never forgive. Where would never show mercy God would.

What God says he does 10-11

What he says will happen. As sure as the rain falls and when it falls it waters the ground and plants grow.

What God does God say? vv.12-13

He is giving a new world. Where there will be freedom not slavery. Joy and peace not fear and conflict.

Fruitfulness not barren land. Beautiful trees not thorns and weeds. All signs of the life ahead for those who follow the servant.

Only possible through the suffering servant. Who we know to be Jesus.

Thelma Howard died in 1981, but for 20 years she had been the maid of **Walt and Lillian Disney**. Every Christmas Walt Disney would call her into his office to give her a Christmas bonus. No doubt she was looking for a \$100 tip or the like. But instead every year for twenty years he would give her a piece of paper with some writing on it. To Thelma it was just a piece of figures and accountants gobbledegook. Each year she would just file the paper in her bottom draw. Well Thelma Howard died in 1981 in dire poverty, a lonely old woman. But when her few possessions were being sorted out they stumbled across the draw full of papers. It turns out the papers were shares in the company. They were worth an estimated 6million pounds. She had all the riches she could want and yet she never knew it.

C.S Lewis says:- “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.”

3. The RSVP

Read: 2-3

LISTEN to God.

There are so many voices to listen that God gets drowned out.

We listen to the voices of those who don't satisfy.

We are to stop and listen to God who does satisfy.

TURN to God. v. 7

Certain behaviour is required. You've got up behaviour that doesn't fit in with the company you are in.

Do a U turn. Away from yourself. Change from being ME centred to God in Jesus centred.

You are to do it NOW. v.6

The invitation won't be there forever.

There's a story told about 3 devils at the Devil University. The 3 devils had to do an essay on how to best mislead humans. They come up with their best reasons to misled men and women. One of the devils just gets a pass. He argued that there was no God. The 2nd devil gets just above a pass and he argued there is no sin. The third devil gets a distinction. He doesn't say there is no God. He doesn't say there is no such things as sin. He simply says there is no hurry.

God brings about all he promises through JESUS .

So Listen to and turn to Jesus.

John 7:37 *"IF anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me streams of living water will flow from within him."*

Billy Graham is now 90 years old with Parkinson's disease.

In January 2000, leaders invited Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed..

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, 'I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it. The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.' Einstein nodded appreciatively.

The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.'

Einstein looked at him and said, ***'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.'***

Having said that Billy Graham continued, 'See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this:

I not only know who I am .. I also know where I'm going.'

The only way you can be guaranteed of not only knowing who you are but where you are going is to accept God's invitation to come.