

## The Great Invitation.

Isaiah 55:1-5.

Sunday evening, August 24, 2008.

### I. A great invitation. Vs. 1.

- A. the word translated Ho, (Hoi in Hebrew) is an attention getting device. In Hebrew it carries with it a slight tone of pity. The prophet is an evangelist here with a concern for the souls of men. He speaks out of the realization of their desperate condition without the redemption of which he has been speaking in the previous chapters.

Application:

Pray that our speaking would be that of Isaiah; that something of the sadness and the concern for lost souls would be ours and would come through in our speaking.

- B. “Everyone that thirsts...”  
Note the universal invitation here; all may freely come.  
Note the subjects that are invited: Those that thirst. Those that sincerely desire the true and living water of the Lord Himself.

Application: Ultimately Christianity is not a set of rules; nor a set of doctrines; ultimately it is a laying hold of and communing with the living God Himself. The water, wine and milk in this passage speak of God Himself.

- C. “Come...” You have to go to Him and talk to Him in prayer. He is the One calling for you! Answer His call!
- D. “Buy, without money and without price...”  
Buy, meaning: obtain, receive for your self.  
The Lord wants nothing in return but to have you in His company, that He may supply you with what is good, and do so in abundance. Vs. 2.
- E. Water signifying the refreshment offered.  
Wine signifying gladness and exhilaration, enjoyment.  
Milk signifying nourishment.  
Under these three images the prophet captures the fullness of life in Christ.

### II. A great hesitation. Vs. 2.

- A. Why do so few people take the Lord up on His great invitation?  
They are busy spending wages on what does not satisfy, and money on what is not bread.
- B. Here is an apt description of the fallen human heart’s condition.  
A reckless and relentless pursuit after what can not satisfy.
- C. Man’s desires and the very bent of his soul have been directed away from the Creator and toward the creature and the creation.

### III. A call to consideration. Vs. 2,3.

- A. "Listen carefully to Me and eat what is good."  
The creature and the creation are good in their place and time, but...  
There is no comparison between the Creator and the creature and creation.  
And the fulfillment of the soul and the souls ultimate goodness are found in the Creator alone.
- B. "Let your soul delight itself in abundance."  
The true goodness of the Lord Himself He offers to us in abundance.  
Here the Creator - Creature distinction becomes precious to us.  
The vastness and immensity of the Godhead is so great, that, when the Creator offers Himself to the creature the creature is overwhelmed in the vast ocean depths of abundance in which we find ourselves immersed.
- C. "Incline your ear and come to Me, hear, and your soul shall live."  
In hearing and in coming, be it ever so hesitatingly and tentatively, the soul finds life to the full.

#### IV. All is founded on a great provision. Vs. 3-5.

- A. "I will make an everlasting covenant with you..."  
In contrast with the covenant made at Sinai which was temporal and provisional.  
It was to pass away and give way to the everlasting covenant which salvation is universal; spiritual and everlasting.
- B. "The sure mercies of David."  
  1. Mercy, or the gracious condescension of God toward man, is the essence of the covenant.
  2. The sure mercies of David reflects on 2 Samuel 7:16 "Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."
  3. This promise is fulfilled in the true Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He is the subject of the remainder of the text.
- C. The Person of the Messiah.
  1. "Given as a witness to the people."  
In Him came the full and final revelation of God.  
"Full of grace and truth." John 1:14.
  2. "A leader and Commander for the people."  
In His resurrection and ascension He has been exalted as a Prince and a Savior. Acts 5:31
  3. "Surely You shall call a nation You do not know."  
He has done so in the great commission.  
"Nations who do not know You shall run to You."  
The "not My people" will become "My people."  
They will reply to the great invitation.
  4. All because of what "The Holy One of Israel" has done in glorifying His Christ.