

A LIFE-CHANGING PROCESS

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com

www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

November 18, 2018

Isaiah 55:1-13

1. In 1963 God began a good work in me, and that work has continued to this day.
2. One of the identifying marks of a genuine Christian is spiritual progress.
3. That is the expectation Paul had for the believers in Philippi, and it should be the expectation we have for ourselves and others. Phil 1:6-7
“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
4. When I became a follower of Jesus Christ there were issues in my life that needed to be dealt with, and even today I am still a work-in-progress, but the day I repented towards God and embraced Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior marked a new beginning.
5. The passage before us highlights three things for which all of us should be thankful; things which are part of the life-changing process every believer should be familiar with.
6. As I expound on this passage my prayer is that God will impact the minds, hearts, and wills of those who hear and read these words.
7. I would encourage those who have never mined the depths of the book of Isaiah to do so, and as an introduction begin with chapters 6 and 53.
8. I want to deal with this chapter under three headings, all of which require something from us.

I. Respond to the great invitation. 1-5

- A. The invitation is addressed to all who are spiritually thirsty, and it is free for the taking.
- B. The alternative is costly but it is not nourishing or satisfying.
- C. Those who respond to the invitation will find the menu to be good, delightful, and abundant.
- D. That which is offered is internalized by listening carefully to God with attentive ears and an obedient heart.
- E. Those who listen and respond will find life everlasting; a life that is based on the faithful mercies of God that are found in the Lord Jesus Christ through His sacrificial death and resurrection.

II. Obey the great admonition. 6-9

- A. God’s invitation must be responded to when it is extended.
NOTE: Many people have the mistaken notion that they can be saved at will, while Jesus declared, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws (invites) him, and I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:44
- B. Our response involves a turning from and a turning to.

- C. Note the wonderful progression in verse 6-7.
 - 1. "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near."
 - 2. "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts."
 - 3. "And let him return to (repent towards) the Lord, and to our God."
 - 4. "And He will have compassion on him, for He will abundantly pardon."
- D. Our thoughts and ways must be forsaken, and God's thoughts and ways must be embraced.

III. Expect the great transformation. 10-13

- A. Most messages on this passage usually conclude with verse 11.
- B. However that leaves an important question unanswered.
- C. The comparison is clear, but not always comprehended.
 - 1. The Word of God is compared to rain and snow.
 - 2. Rain and snow water the earth and results follow that benefit mankind.
 - 3. The Word of God goes forth from His mouth and results follow that also benefit mankind.
- D. Rain and snow produce a result, and the Word of God will produce a result as well.
- E. There is a difference between the results however.

- 1. Rain and snow water whatever exists or has been planted.

NOTE: If rain falls on a thorn bush or a thistle the result is a bigger thorn bush or thistle. We have been getting a lot of rain lately, and none of the weeds in my yard have changed to grass.

- 2. However the Word of God will:

- a. Bring forth joy and peace.
- b. Cause us to delight in God's creation.
- c. Cause fundamental and wonderful change to take place.

NOTE: Let me quote from a book by Paul David Tripp titled, "Dangerous Calling," related to this passage.

"The picture here is of fundamental, specific, and personal transformation. When the Word of God, faithfully taught by the people of God and empowered by the Spirit of God, falls down, people become different. Lusting people become pure, fearful people become courageous, thieves become givers, demanding people become servants, angry people become peacemakers, complainers become thankful, and idolaters come to joyfully worship the one true God. **The ultimate purpose of the Word of God is not theological information but heart and life transformation.**"

- d. The resultant change will be a memorial to the Lord, and an ongoing, eternal work in the lives of those who have responded to the great invitation, are obeying the great admonition, and expecting the great transformation.

APPLICATION

- 1. Has God begun a good work in you?
- 2. If He has you are a work in progress.
- 3. Is the Word of God advancing the work of God in your life?