**Isaiah Sermon VI Isaiah 54-56**

**Come, All Who Are Thirsty**

Review of “We Would Have Believed Our Message?” (Isaiah 53)

This is the last of four Servant Songs in Isaiah (42:1-9, 49:1-13, 50:4-9 and 52:13-53:12) They are songs of the triumph of the Suffering Servant.

Isa 53:1-3 The Messiah/Suffering Servant:

v. 1 Who would believe it? No one ever would have imagined it. Messiah is the arm of the Lord.

So, what is this powerful arm of the Lord like?

v. 2 Like a tender shoot. A child. He begins as a baby. A helpless little one. Not a very auspicious beginning!

v. 2 “no beauty or majesty.” Not what the world expects. The ultimate anti-hero.

v. 3 Despised and rejected. Held in low esteem. This is Jesus! This is the arm of the Lord? Not very auspicious.

Isa 53:4-6 v. 4a He took our pain and suffering on himself.

v. 4b But we got it all wrong. We considered him stricken. We thought it was a sign of weakness. How foolish we thought! Submit to humiliation at the hands of your enemy? How weak!

v. 5c Our transgressions led to his piercing. Our iniquities led to his being crushed.

His being punished (instead of us) led to our peace

v. 6 the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all. Imagine the pressure!!!

Isa 53:7-9

Oppressed, afflicted, led like a lamb to the slaughter. Was he helpless? No! Yet he went like a lamb. He did not resist.

53:10 But that is not the end of the story, is it? After all this suffering, “He will see his offspring (us) and prolong his day. We are that offspring.

Isaiah 54:1-3 The result of the work of the Suffering Servant: This “barren woman” is the Gentile nations. We are this barren woman.

The one with a husband (v. 1) is unfaithful Israel.

Therefore…. Sing barren woman! Sing, church!

The motif of barren women is quite common in the Bible. Sarah, Rachel, Hannah, Elizabeth. God makes the barren fruitful.

You are that barren woman, as is the church.

v. 1 We will have many children. This semester on campus, but also this Fall in Bakersfield. Yes! In Tehachapi. Yes! In the Cortez Bible group. Yes! In the single professional Bible group.

v. 2 lengthening our cords and strengthening our stakes = the kingdom, the number of saved growing greatly.

v. 3 Where? To the right, to the left to all nations. To their cities with all their desolate people, living their desolate lives.

Like I said last week to Taft, to Shafter, to Tehachapi and Porterville. Yes, to Merced.

v. 3 Bakersfield is one of those “desolate cities.”

Isaiah 54:4-6 The shame “of your youth” (of your days before Christ) will be taken away. You will be guilt-free (Hebrews 9:14 The blood of Jesus cleanses our consciences. Heb 10:2 we no longer feel guilty.)

So let us sing like a barren woman who gives birth to many children.

What was our shame replaced by?

v. 5 God is now our husband. Our kinsman/redeemer (Ruth and Boaz).

When a Jewish husband died, the kinsman/redeemer took her as spouse.

v. 6 We are a wife called back into an intimate relationship (Hosea and Gomer)

Isaiah 54:7-15

v. 7 God abandoned us because of our sins, but only for a short time.

v. 8 But now I am taking you back forever with “everlasting kindness” and “deep compassion.”

v. 9 It is like Noah. I promised I would never again flood the earth. Now I promise you that you will never again be out of a relationship with me—never to rebuke again.

Like me with my son Ben. How could you do this.

Just read v. 10-15

Isaiah 54:16-17

See, it is I Behold! Check this out!!! I did this!

 Is it true that God created the destroyer to “wreak havoc.”?

I thought that God did not create evil. What is this about? This is what God allows to come into existence in order to bring us to repentance. He gives us over (Romans 1) to the things we love.

Satan may think he is pulling a “fast one” on me (God), but I created him and I even use him for my purposes in your life.

v. 17 Conclusion: No weapon of the enemy can prevail against my people.

I will vindicate my people. Why? Because the Suffering Servant was pierced, crushed for our iniquities and yet he saw the light of life and given a portion among the great. Why? Because he poured out his life unto death. Because he bore the sin of many…

Isaiah 55:1-5 v. 1 “Come to the waters.” and “come buy and eat.” Has to do with the things in life which really satisfy. Only in Christ do we have real life that fully satisfies.

v. 1 So, we at the BCOC say COME!!!!

Come O thirsty.

Come, O hungry.

Come!!!

Come for the food that really satisfies!!!

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

v. 2 Have you spent yourself on things that do not satisfy? Note: Among the things that are not real is bread. Bread is not “bread”!

v. 1 Are these things really without cost? No! They were very costly! (see Isaiah 53 He was pierced and crushed to obtain these things) Could it mean that these are things that we cannot buy with our money?

v. 2 What did you formerly (or do you still) spend your money on and give your labor to that will not satisfy?

v. 2 What is this “richest of fare” we can delight in? (the things that truly satisfy).

It is true friends, true love, true purpose, true satisfaction.

Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy!

[John 10:10 The thief kills and destroys. I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.]

v. 3 Listen!!! This is about the New Covenant

 -everlasting v. 3

-promised to David/Messiah v. 3

v. 4 See!!! Watch what I will do! (Come!!!! v. 1, Listen!!! v.3)

-Messiah as ruler v. 4

 -many nations will come running!

 -splendor.

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the Lord. We are entering a season of planting the seed for a harvest in October and November. Let us say to our neighbor, to our fellow students, to our co-workers, Come! Listen! See! Seek the Lord!!!

Come! Listen! See! Seek!

Isaiah 55:8-9 As the heavens are above the earth….

How are God’s thoughts above ours? We think we are pretty smart, and compared to a cow we are!

It is like us compared to a cow.

Q: Have you ever played golf with a real pro? Talked to a bona fide genius?

I once skied with my cousin who was a professional skier.

I once went to the gym with Kaido Leesman.

Isaiah 55:10-13 God’s word always accomplish its purpose.

What about those who hear it but reject it? (John 12:47-48).

Yes! Even when people reject God’s words, it still accomplishes its purpose to save or to judge. (Heb 4:12-13 it judges our thoughts and attitudes)

We say Come! Listen! See! Seek! But it is the word of the Lord that does the work, so we need to get people into Bible studies!!!!!!

v. 12 You will go out in joy. Get the picture!!!

v. 12 The mountains will sing for you.

The trees will clap for you.

v. 13 No more thornbush or brier. What have God’s words accomplished in your life? What are the juniper and myrtle to you?

Let us be in category #1. Let us be of those who hear and obey are lifted up and saved by God’s words.

[Isa 56:1-8 Our part in this wonderful plan.

v. 1. Maintain justice

v. 2. Do the right things in all circumstances. (obedience to commands, but also those things we know are right.)

v. 3-4 No-one will be excluded. The foreigner and the eunuch (who was unclean according to the Jews)

v. 5 Yes, even the eunuch and foreigner will be given a name better than sons and daughters. What might that name be? Revelation 3:12 “The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God… I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

v 6-8 All who are obedient and who love the Lord and who serve him will be brought to his holy mountain—to the Kingdom of God.

v. 7 God is calling us to be a house of prayer for all nations! (quoted in Mark 11:17, Matthew 21:13)

God is calling us to be that house of prayer.]

Summary:

Who would have believed what God has done through Jesus?

Therefore, sing, barren woman!

Enlarge your tent! Lengthen your cords.

Conquer and settle the desolate cities.

Forget the shame of your youth.

Come! Come to the waters.

Listen!

See!

Seek!

God is doing this. He will accomplish this.

Let us be a house of prayer for all nations.