

ISAIAH 55 vs 1

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The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first**: chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second**: chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2nd century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



These chapters are rarely read in the church today; yet they are full of **Good News**. This chapter could be: **The Way of Joy and Peace**; the spiritual street needing to be rebuilt, which makes little sense to most in the 21st century, steeped in science and research; these are lessons of the heart, not lessons of the heartless.

Jesus, the Messiah / **Yeshua our salvation**, when He walked among us put a human face on where the LORD God lives and rules; where things are done right, and joy and peace abound.

¹ **Ho** / here is evidence God has a sense of humor; Translators 450 years ago, chose this word... not knowing what one would say to get the attention of a whore. God obviously said, I'll go with it and let them deal with it later.

Ho... in Hebrew: **hoi...** an interjection that can mean reactions like: **Ah! Ha! Hey! And Oh!** It is also **woe**.

The Invitation of the Teacher,

Hey! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and he who has **no money; come, buy and eat. Come by wine and milk / for the oldest and for the youngest; without money and without cost** / in our time, this might not sound appealing; since we know greedy gov'ts with their corrupt cronies and greedy corporations pollute our drinking water. This is an invitation to the refreshing streams that flow in the kingdom of our God. In the Lord's business model; paying for water is not an issue; His fresh, unpolluted streams flow freely for even the penniless; what He sells is a gift; and He asks a great question;

² **Why do you spend money for what is not bread?** / you waste your \$\$\$ on what is not the staple of life; probably on some questionably processed, genetically modified junk food,

and you labor for what does not satisfy? / by the way, **work...** is **work**; whether or not it has been redefined in our happiness generation, by ignorant educators who attempt to confuse school kids... and tell them: **work... is fun** ... but kids aren't stupid. And educators stifle children dumped in boring classes where no learning ever takes place... fallaciously insisting the lousy teacher is good -- who should have been fired long ago... as if kids don't know what fun is.

As if little kids yelling and giggling and mindlessly running around playgrounds is what doctors, lawyers or airplane pilots do... instead of teaching them 10 languages, and prepare them to become skilled: brain surgeons; medical technicians; botanists; biologists; immunologists, and even first year lawyers who can actually read and write a legal brief -- the last slam was to tip my hat to my cousin... a brilliant international lawyer who is regularly amazed by the sheer number of lame brains applying at his law firm.

Why do you spend money for what is **not bread? And your wages for what does **not** satisfy?**

Listen diligently to Me / says the good Teacher;

[1] Come to class... [2] Pay attention, listen diligently to Me, and [3] eat what is good / not really complicated is it? David wrote about the Teacher: **your words are sweeter than honey** -- Psalm 119; Jeremiah wrote about the Teacher: **Your words I found, and I ate them, and Your word became the joy and rejoicing of my heart for I am called by Your name** -- Jeremiah 15. what the Teacher wrote is not only sweet to the taste; but they see what He said, comes with great promises,

and your soul will delight on the finest fare / haute cuisine, and the Teacher is a good Teacher; He knows some of the students were distracted; so He repeats the points saying them a little different; and since He's not yelling at them; perhaps, He got their attention by how He spoke -- His eager students were: **learning to listen; and listening to learn.**

³**[1] Listen closely / to what I say, and [2] come to Me: [3] learn from Me...** the Teacher says: do those 3 things, **and your soul will live, and I will make an unending covenant with you, as sure as the sure mercies given David** / you will find rest for your soul; WOW! For doing so little; our Teacher is so disproportionately generous, isn't He? And you can almost hear some in the church world object: **too simple!** You mean: If I just lean in, and carefully listen; if I show up to class to hear and do what the Teacher says? **Yes!** When some students gave up on the lessons and were leaving, Peter said to the Lord, **where would we go? You have the words of eternal life.** / starting with the name: **David = beloved.** The Lord made a perpetual covenant with David and his dynasty... that would end when Messiah comes whose right it is to reign.

and who is: **you?** the LORD is speaking to **students in His class**... one from a family, two from a city. We, in the church He is building could insert **those ruled by God**, those who are thirsty and want to be taught by the LORD; and since God loves to multitask He creates layers of promise; He says: as is your faith it will be done to you.

You know the best students in class... **always** read ahead a little. Doing that, you notice **this David is King David's greater son, the Beloved Messiah.** John Bunyan wrote, one thing we know about **the love of God: He dearly loves His Son!**

4 Look, I have given Him for a witness to the people, a leader and chief officer to the people.

5 Watch, you will call nations who you do not know, and nations who do not know you will run to you / the ones ruled by God; the students in His class paying attention you / and they are amazed with these verses... who say, this is their story, this is their song too; something that continues even today; in the 21st century as nations come running... to God be the glory!

because of the LORD your God and for the Holy One of Israel for He has glorified you / it is always because of the Lord our God; He is the One who found us; He is the One who inspires us; who carries us and guides us His way. Dr. Dallas Willard said many years ago; the power of God, is for the purposes of God, in people He prepares, the beloved of the ones ruled by God; the students in His class / and that's what Isaiah just said: it is not our genius, to God be the glory.

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, call on Him while He is near / there is a time coming when He will move on. David told Solomon, do not presume on the Lord; make an effort; do something that shows you are looking for Him. If you seek Him with your whole heart, He will let you find Him -- **1 Chronicles 28:9**; the LORD said: Because he has set his love on Me, I will deliver him; he will call Me, and I will answer: I with him in the trouble to deliver him and honor him -- **Psalms 91**:

The METANOIA moment has arrived,

7 Let the wrongdoer abandon his way, and the wrong one forsake his thoughts / at times we need to abandon our thoughts, and let go our plans and schemes! Paul says, Set our minds on things above -- **Colossians 3**; Be not shaped by the world, don't let the dull world shape you, or their smells overwhelm you; refresh our minds prove what is the good and acceptable will of God -- **Romans 12**:

and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God,

for He will abundantly pardon / in the OT, this is the same as the NT METANOIA moment; the Teacher says: to His first-grade class: time to change your thinking. He knows without a changed mind, there will be no changed heart.

Isaiah said it's all because of the Lord God who is concerned, who knows we are in training; He is Holy, slow to anger, quick in mercy; He is so different than us. And that's the point.

⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts and My ways are not your ways, says the LORD / what He thinks, the information He knows is so important to know. [Dr. Dallas Willard asked: what is knowledge?](#) It is the necessary information we need, giving us the ability to act in a way that feelings and opinions do not give; he said, we need to learn what Jesus knew: His words, His way of saying things; do not just memorize little verses, learn whole passages. And to those who say it is difficult to memorize, Dr. Willard said, we were created to hear what the Lord wants us to know. Ask Him for help. We all can learn His words; and grow in His ways. exiting Egypt, they saw spectacular miracles; [Moses came to know His ways](#)... Moses could say: that's the way He is.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow fall from heaven not in vain, but water the earth, and make it yield and sprout, giving seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

¹¹so My word goes forth from My mouth: it will not return to Me void, but will accomplish what I desire, and it will prosper in the matter for which I sent it / what the Lord, our great Teacher spoke is potent; what he says will succeed; and He sent His word to you and me.

The Result of coming to class... and learning,

¹²For you will go out with joy; be led forth with peace, the mountains and the hills will break forth before you into singing and all the trees of the field will clap their hands / these have a song to sing: they found the kingdom, the entrance was narrow, but they are marching to glory reigning in life - here and now. Jesus Christ knows the way; all creation is cheering us on; Luke said: there is joy in heaven over one, who changes their mind.

¹³Instead of the thorn will come up the fir tree and instead of the brier will come up the myrtle tree and they will be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that will not be cut off. / instead of thorns, large or small... the curse of the ground; fir trees standing tall... 60 – 70 feet, favored by the builder for beams, rafters, and masts, / and instead of prickly weeds; fragrant leaves and branches, with colorful blossoms... fit to beautify and perfume a wedding banquet hall: / His students will be living memorials called by His name. [It is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!](#)

[For you will go out with joy, be led forth with peace.](#)