

4.15 Invitation to the Thirsty

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-11

Date: Dec. 10 & 14

Unit Verse: For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

The Point
God Brings Life

STORY SUMMARY: Seek The Lord

In last weeks lesson, we heard about Ezekiel's vision and that God's presence brings life, even to old dry bones. This week, we hear from another Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, who continues to speak the word of promise that God is always with God's people. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord calls upon Israel to listen to the promise of an everlasting relationship and to seek the Lord. There is nothing that we can do to earn God's love and favor; God has promised to stay by God's people. In response to God's love, we help others instead of hurting them, honor God rather than turning away. Our God is a loving God. This passage is an invitation rather than a command. The instructions that are found here are encouraging and hopeful, not negative. Those instructions are not those of a demanding God watching from high, but rather a loving parent guiding their toddler away from danger. The concept of "covenant," or promise, was absolutely central to Israel's self-understanding, encompassing God's special relationship with the people. While there are many different covenants in the Hebrew Bible, Isaiah 55:3-4 refers to God's covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7:8-17.

THE POINT: God offers us gracious, loving relationship.

Isaiah seeks to reassure the people that a relationship with God can be restored because God can do so much more than humans can comprehend and that God's word is utterly dependable. The renewed covenant with God is experienced and grasped when the people seek and call upon the Lord while God is near. Regardless of how far we stray, God will remain in relationship with us and keeps the promise to remain near.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: Repentance

Repentance means to return or retrace one's steps. In other words, it is the idea of turning back, retracing one's steps in order to return to the right way. We often find ourselves wandering down a path that is not the way in which God intends for us to go. Repentance is realizing this mistake and returning to God.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Fellowship

This journey of faith and repentance is bigger than our ability to do it alone. Our fellow travelers in the church can walk alongside us, helping us to stay on the course and clarifying God's direction. Inviting others to join in this journey is part of our mission as Christians.

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers

Don't you love getting an invitation to something? Isn't it so nice to be included in things. This week we see how God is continually asking us to come to him. He doesn't care where we are at or how far we have strayed away He just wants us to come to him. So we invite you to come to Jesus with your worry, stress, exhaustion, fear, joy or hope. He will never fail you or turn you away. He also calls us to invite others to Him. Be bold in asking who can you invite to know the love of Jesus Christ.

Blessings

The Youth Team