

YOUR LIFE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE  
Harvest Missionary Baptist Church Sunday AM, February 19, 2006

□ **ISAIAH 55:1-13 GOD'S PLAN & YOUR INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE**

- ◆ What is God's plan?
  - **Vs 4-5** Jesus is the central figure of God's plan (**Vs 6** Seek Him → Jesus)
    - Jesus is a LEADER → Showing the way, providing an example
      - Many people in the world recognize that aspect of Jesus
    - Jesus is also a COMMANDER → Issuing orders to be obeyed
      - Sadly, most do not recognize this aspect of Jesus
    - Jesus is both Lord & King
    - Jesus will establish His kingdom
      - Initially with the remnant of Israel
      - Then to the Gentiles
  - **Vs 10-13** God's Word / people will go forth & establish God's Name
    - God's Word is like the rain & snow that water the Earth
      - It (God's Word) will accomplish God's will
      - (Don't be misled by others who want to add to it)
    - We too will go forth w/joy & God's blessing
      - Fruit will be produced by God's people
    - The result is "a name" → An everlasting sign not torn down
      - Better than a billboard or neon lights in Times Square
- ◆ You're invited to be part of God's plan
  - **Vs 1 & 3 & 6** Is your invitation → Made personal by Holy Spirit
    - Everyone that thirsts → Listen to Jesus, Seek Jesus
      - Your thirst will be satisfied → A priceless gift @ no cost to you
      - Your soul shall live
      - You'll find Jesus
      - You'll be integrated into God's plan
- ◆ Notice God's perspective on your life sprinkled throughout His invitation
  - **Vs 2** Why waste your time & resources on physical & neglect spiritual?
    - Spending money for that which is not bread
      - We're all addicted to the "stuff mart" (Poor example to lost)
    - Your wages for that which does not satisfy
      - How much resources (time) is wasted each day w/o benefit?
    - Listen to God and our souls will benefit greatly
      - Soul = Our eternal part
  - **Vs 7-9** It means forsaking ourselves & fully embracing God
    - Forsake your ways & thoughts → Then Lord is merciful
    - There is no comparing our ways & thoughts to God's

□ **GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON OUR LIFE IS ON OUR SOUL**

- ◆ **Matthew 23:25-28** Jesus leaves no doubt He looks at the heart of men
  - We focus on the external
    - New clothes, new hairdo, make-up, plastic surgery, teeth whiteners
      - "Why do you spend money on that which is not bread?"

- What does Jesus see when He looks at you?
  - *If we only paid half as much attention to the soul's appearance!!!*
- ◆ **Mark 7:14-23** Nothing we eat will defile us but what comes out from us will
  - To the Jews, eating with unclean hands or unlawful meats defiled men
    - Even in OT teachings → Not the cleaning or the food but obedience
  - Jesus provides the biology lesson to explain
    - Dirt / food doesn't enter the heart
  - However, what is in our heart defiles us
    - And is evidenced by what comes out of our mouth
      - (The mouth being the common body part in this parable)
  - Again, Jesus is focused on the spiritual part of us
    - We are careful to live in germ free environments
      - Emphasis on washing our hands
      - Regulating our contact with the sick
      - Getting our shots
    - *If we only paid half as much attention to the health of our heart!!!*

□ **CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF AS GOD SEES YOU?**

- ◆ Saved → What else is taking up all your time?
  - Why do you spend money & labor for things that don't matter?
  - See yourself in God's plan
    - To spread His nourishing Word
    - To proclaim His Name to all the Earth
  - Take on God's perspective in your life
    - Focus on the heart & not on the flesh
    - Feed it
    - Nurture it
    - Guard it from evil
- ◆ Lost → What is more important in your life?
  - Forsake your ways & thoughts to obtain His mercy
    - Only God can satisfy the longing in your heart
  - You don't have this longing?
    - He's either already satisfied your longing – or –
    - Pray, pray, pray for God's Spirit to deal with you

**SONG # 240 – I Surrender All**