

The Best Things in Life are Free

Isaiah 55:1-3

Introduction:

- A. One of the biggest scams that going around is the promise of great wealth without putting out any effort. Unfortunately, many fall for the scam and it produces great wealth for the one who perpetrated the scam.
- B. There is a saying that has been around for years that says the best things in life are free. What the saying is talking about is not, of course great wealth or fame, but rather the important things of life, such as happiness and joy. This certainly is a prophetic statement of God's offer of free mercy and salvation for all men. When we talk about the important things, what could be more important than God's mercy and the souls salvation?
- B. The Israelites of old were promised a land flowing with milk and honey. This phrase suggests peace, security and prosperity. They were to possess a land that they did not have to work for and that was much better than from where they had come.
- D. No money needed. The obvious intent is to show that true happiness and peace, resulting from salvation, are given freely.

I. ***Great Paradox***

- A. That which is the most expensive freely given.
 - 1. Redemption - 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - 2. Ephesians 1:3-8 - Note NIV on verse 8, "which he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."
 - 3. Bought with a price - 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - a. What one is willing to pay reflects the value placed on it.
 - b. Do we disappoint Christ who purchased us?
 - c. Illustration: Several years ago, bed bugs were a problem. They bred in a certain kind of mattress. A company advertised a "sure fire killer of bed bugs." It cost around \$6.00. When a purchaser opened the package, it had two wooden blocks marked A and B. The instructions said, "Place the bed bug on

block A and strike soundly with block B." Needless to say there was disappointment in the buyer. Let us live so as not to disappoint our Lord.

- B. What Jesus valued enough to shed his blood:
 - 1. Church purchased - Acts 20:28
 - 2. Kingdom like a treasure found - Matthew 13:44
 - 3. A new covenant sealed by blood - Matthew 26:28
- C. Yet all freely given by God.
 - 1. Cannot buy salvation - can't pay for it. Jesus already paid the full price.
 - 2. Note the increasing commercialism in the church.
 - a. Churches charging a fee for seminars, dinners, outings - all reflect evidence of the social gospel and crass commercialism
 - b. When will there be a fee required to attend a gospel meeting, attend Bible studies, worship, etc?

II. *Gospel Is Of Great Price*

- A. Called a treasure - 2 Corinthians 4:7
 - 1. Do we appreciate it?
 - 2. If a price were put on it what would you be willing to pay? - Proverbs 23:23
- B. But freely given - 1 Corinthians 2:7-13
 - 1. Of such value - yet some ignore it.
 - 2. God chose the foolish things of this world to confound the wise - 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

III. *The Soul Of Man Is Of Great Price*

- A. What will a man give in exchange for it - Matthew 16:26
- B. The kind God values - 1 Peter 3:3-4
- C. Loss of the soul is the greatest loss of all.
- D. So foolish when so little is required to save it.
- E. Even more foolish when it costs so little and salvation is so freely given - Ephesians 2:6-10

Conclusion:

- A. Truly the best things in life are free.

B. Come to the waters now - manifest wisdom and have the peace that passes all understanding.