

The Best Things in Life are Free

Isa. 55:1-3

Isaiah 55:1-3 – “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David.”

Introduction:

- A. One of the biggest scams that we see 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 which 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. The Great Paradox

A. That which is the most expensive freely given.

1. Redemption - 1 Pet. 1:18-19

1 Peter 1:18-19 - knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

2. Eph. 1:3-8 - Note NIV on verse 8, "which he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."

Ephesians 1:3-8 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

3. Bought with a price - 1 Cor. 6:20

1 Corinthians 6:20 - For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.

a. What one is willing to pay reflects the value placed on it.

b. Do we disappoint Christ who purchased us?

c. Illustration: Many 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.” The cost was around

\$6.00 which was rather expensive at the time. 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." It goes without saying the buyer was disappointed. 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

Acts 20:28 - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

2. Kingdom like a treasure found - Matt. 13:44

Matthew 13:44 - The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

3. A new covenant sealed by blood - Matt. 26:28

Matthew 26:28 - for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

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 Cor. 4:7

2 Corinthians 4:7 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

1. Do we appreciate it?

2. If a price were put on it what would you be willing to pay? - Prov. 23:23

Proverbs 23:23 - Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

B. But freely given - 1 Cor. 2:7-13

1 Corinthians 2:7-13 - but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

1. Of such value - yet some ignore it.

2. God chose the foolish things of this world to confound the wise - 1 Cor. 1:18-21

1 Corinthians 1:18-21 - For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE

WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

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

A. What will a man give in exchange for it? - Matt. 16:26

Matthew 16:26 - "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

B. The kind God values - 1 Pet. 3:3-4

1 Peter 3:3-4 - Your adornment must not be merely external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

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 - Eph. 2:6-10

Ephesians 2:6-10 - and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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.