

Title: – God’s Way, Not Our Way

Scripture: Isaiah 55

Speaker: Josh Maness

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Isaiah 55: *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. 4 Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. 5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. 12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

Hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, special orders won't upset us, all we ask is that you let us serve it your way. Have it your way....Have it your way at Burger King.

Many Christians want God but they say wait – we want you OUR way. This is why our lives seem to crash around us. Are you going to be blessed by God to have it your way, or are you going to let him have *his* way? We twist God’s word and his ways to be what we’d have it be. We come into church with the attitude that we’re prepared for how we want services to go. This is having things our way. If it goes off schedule or if something doesn’t happen the way we think it should, we get upset.

1. The Departure (verse 7): The beginning of chapter 55 starts with the word “Ho”. This word is a cry to the people to get them to listen. It is called from the rooftops and from all parts saying LISTEN. Isaiah was trying to get the people to turn away from their own ways. He wanted them to turn to God. God invites everyone to turn to him. Spiritually, who are we looking at? Are we looking at ourselves or Christ? Psalm 37:5 says “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” If this is true, why do we see things not happening when we ask him? When you get your will into God’s will, then you ask. This is why we don’t see things working. We aren’t finding out what God wants from us before we ask.
2. The Dependence (verse 6): We must be dependent on Christ. Our hearts must be in the right direction. Christians can be in God’s way, but not *in* his way. Verse 6 says *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found*. There is a time limit on our time here. Every breath we take we should be glorifying God. There will come a time when it is too late to depend on him. Our ultimate trust must be in God. Psalm 37:40 says “And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save

them, because they trust in him.” We might do things for church but what are our intentions behind them? Do we tithe in order to receive tax breaks? Do we do work on the building for the recognition? We should be doing them to glorify God and to fulfil his ways. God wants our full attention and dedication. He wants us to do things his way. We are not God, therefore our ways aren’t best. Christ says that he is THE way – not A way. If we want our nation to turn back to God, we need to examine ourselves to see the way we are living.

3. The Delight (verse 12): Proverbs 8:32 says “Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.” There were two people in the Bible who were called *blessed and highly favored* – The Apostle Paul and Mary the Mother of Christ. Your situations will never define your relationship with Christ. Both of the people called blessed and highly favored went through significant troubles and circumstances. If we are in Christ’s way, we can delight in him. It’s not happiness – but JOY. Joy and happiness are two different things. Joy comes from a relationship with Christ. When is the last time you had the kind of joy that you had when you came to Christ? Do you still feel that joy today or has it fizzled out? We also are guaranteed peace. We should be constantly reminded of God’s promises and have peace that he will come through for us when we need him.

Whose direction are we following? Acts 2 describes Peter’s message to the people. In verse 37 they asked him one question – what shall we do? They were moved. For every message we hear there will be a response. Even a non-response is a response. What will you say when the Lord is trying to move you in a different direction?