



Come  
to be  
Comforted

*Isaiah 55*

# Invitation to the Thirsty/ Poor

“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has **no money**,  
come, buy and eat!

**Come**, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is  
not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?



# Listen and Live

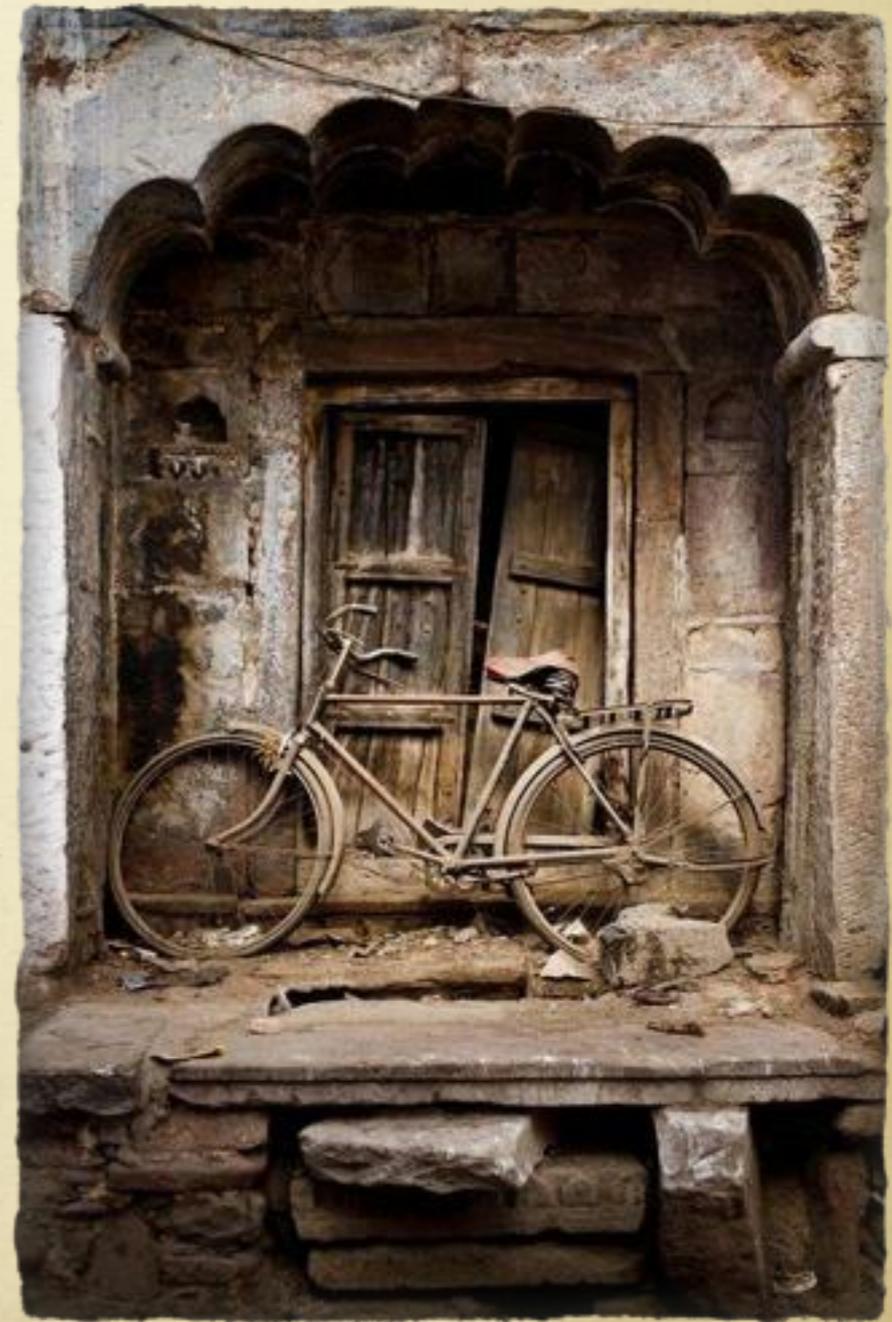


Listen diligently to me, and eat  
what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich  
food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to  
me;  
hear, that your soul may live;

# Permanent Relationship

and I will make with you an  
everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
4 Behold, I made him a witness to  
the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the  
peoples.  
5 Behold, you shall call a nation that  
you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know  
you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, and of  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.



# Seek and Find



“Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;

# Turn and be Forgiven

let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord, that he may  
have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly  
pardon.



# Transcendent Perspective



For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares  
the Lord.

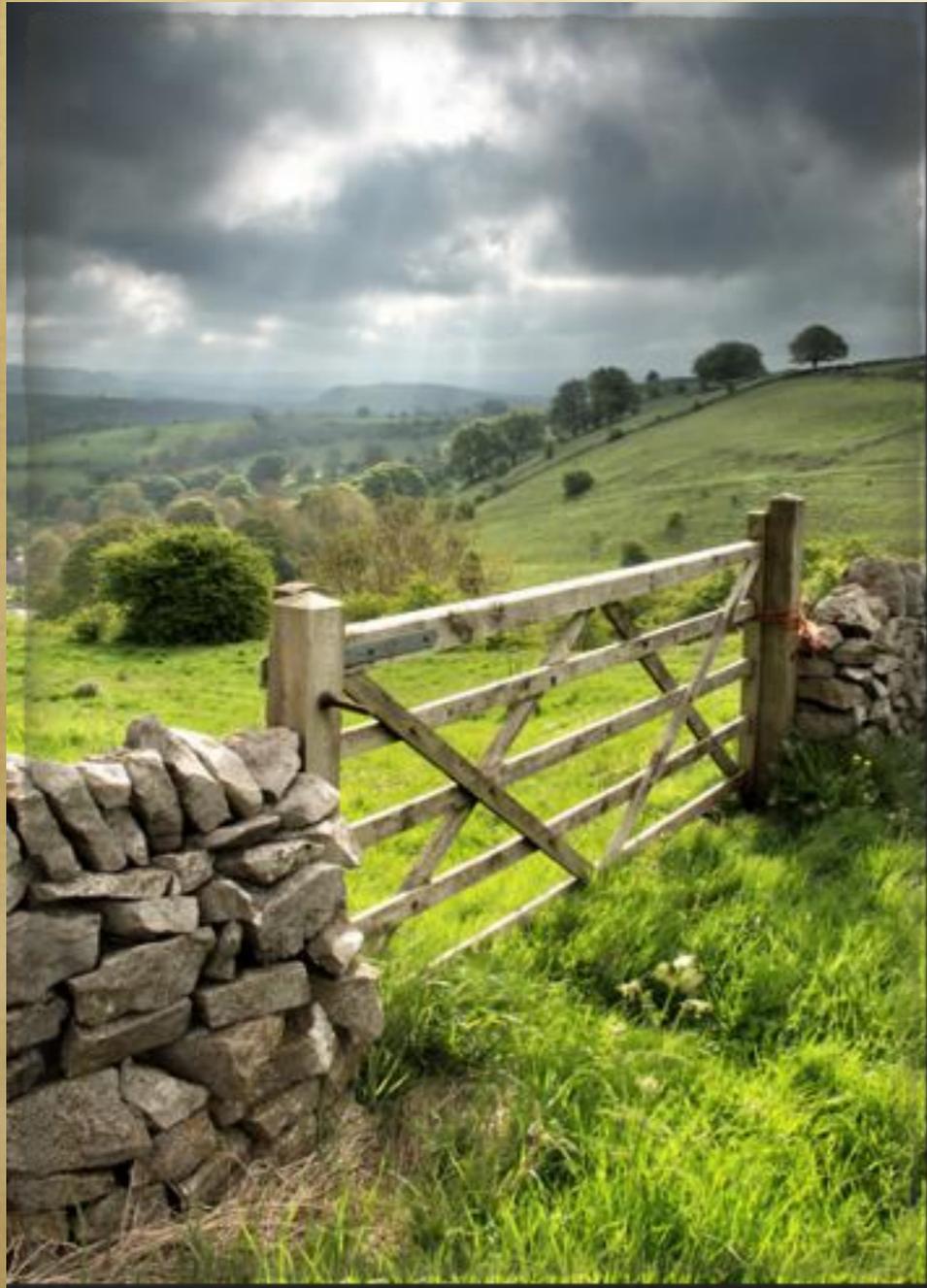
For as the heavens are higher than the  
earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

# God's Performative Word

“For as the rain and the snow come down from  
heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



# A New Exodus



“For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the Lord,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Isaiah 55 Revised

Come, everyone who thirsts for hope and meaning  
come to the springs of hope  
whether you have money or not  
you can come and join in.

Come buy wine and milk at the supermarket of abundance  
even if you don't have money

Why do you spend your time and money on junk food  
why get worked up about things that don't give you meaning?

Listen to me and chew on what is meaningful  
delight yourself in rich food

Give me your attention and come close to me;  
hear what I say so your soul can live;  
I have made a permanent relationship with you  
my steadfast, sure love for the people I love



Remember how I made David a witness to the nations around  
I made him a leader and commander for the peoples  
People you do not know will become aware of you because of what  
I have done in your lives  
They will want to connect to you to discover the meaning of your  
abundant/flourishing lives

This will all be because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel  
For he has touched your lives with his presence

So develop the practices that bring you close to God  
pay attention to the little ways God draws near to you  
Take steps to address your skepticism  
Abandon all the little ways you feed your cynicism

Return to a worldview with God in it  
and God will show up in your lives  
God won't hold your unfaith/doubts against you,  
God is all in, all the time



For my thoughts are not your thoughts  
neither are my ways your ways declares the Lord.

I come from a place that is deeper  
and richer than the place you usually live  
I have a deep underground stream that feeds my thoughts

For as the rain and snow come down from the sky  
and do not return but water the earth  
making it bring forth plants (even in the desert)  
giving a future to the farmer  
and something to eat for the city dwellers  
so are the words that I speak to you each day  
they will not be meaningless  
but will accomplish what I have set them to do  
they will succeed as will you

For I am going to call you out of your exile  
just as I did with the exodus  
You are not going to rush or flee in fear  
You are going to go out in joy  
and be led out of this exile/pandemic in peace



All creation is going to break into singing  
the trees and the shrubs will clap their hands

Instead of the thorn bush you will have the cypress  
Instead of the tumbleweed you will have the lilac

and all this will make a name for God  
it will be a sign to others that God is alive  
and still active in rescuing people  
from the things that imprison them.

