



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.

