

## Isaiah 55 (New International Version)

- <sup>1</sup> "Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.
- <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
- <sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
hear me, that your soul may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations that do not know you will hasten to  
you,  
because of the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor."
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.
- <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way  
and the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have  
mercy on him,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- <sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread  
for the eater,
- <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
- <sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.
- <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the LORD's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
which will not be destroyed."

[New International Version](#) (NIV)

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [Biblica](#)

**OASIS: “Listen and Live,” Isaiah 55: 1-13**

Possible starter question: What are some ways that we might use the Lenten season (the 40 days prior to Easter) as a time of spiritual preparation for the Easter celebration?

Transitional comment: Today’s passage from Isaiah is classic passage that underscores our needs, and directs our attention and expectations to the ultimate Source of Life.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study (if you haven’t already prayed)

Read and Overview observations:

- Let’s listen as someone reads our passage aloud (2 blocks, 1-5 and 6-13).
- Now take several minutes by yourself to study this passage. Look for repeated words and ideas. Note major contrasts and comparisons.

First section (v. 1-5):

- O Let’s briefly identify some of the repeated words and ideas in this first block?
- O (vs. 1) Let’s understand this invitation. To whom is the invitation given? To what are they invited? To do what? Anything else? (*n.b. discover the feast imagery.*)
  - I Given that the passage disallows using money, what do you think the word “buy” means? (Perhaps you can spot some words or ideas that surface in the next few verses that provide some clues.)
- O (vs. 2a) What are they warned about doing? Why?
- O (vs. 2b & 3) What are they (or we) supposed to do? What are the benefits?
  - I What do you think is the core of this extravagant invitation? In what ways is it more about spiritual nourishment than bodily nourishment?
- O (vs 4 & 5) These verses expand upon the Messianic promise to David. What are some of the qualities that the Messiah will have? What impact or difference will he make?

Second section (v. 6-13):

- O (vs. 6) What do we learn about our need and about repentance from this verse?
- O (v. 8-9) What does Isaiah emphasize in these verses?
  - I What do we need to understand about God’s character and activity, especially in comparison to us?
- O (v. 10-11) What are some of the differences that the rain and the snow make?
- O In what ways is God’s word similar to the rain and the snow?

I What do you think is at the heart of what God desires and purposes?

O (v. 12-13) In what specific ways are God's desires and purposes expressed in these verses?

Summary:

O What are some of the God-given guarantees scattered through this chapter?

O What attitudes and responses are needed by us?

I In what ways is this an appropriate passage about preparation for Easter?

A Which might be an attitude or action that you want to pursue more intentionally during the next few weeks?

Prayer together: for one another individually and collectively to be transformed in our inner most beings by God's great grace.

---

Text is on other page or [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com)

- a. BIG idea: forgiveness and salvation.
- b. Key verse/idea: Is. 55:7b **“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”**
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?).
- e. Determine the core questions you'll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in words are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.)
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- i. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even if they are relevant. Otherwise, other texts will push you more into the “teacher role,” rather than that of facilitator. It also can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the 1-volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition, IVP). It is well worth the \$40.