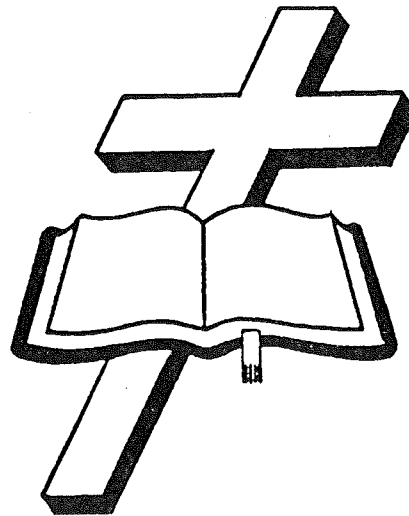


# APPETITE IS EVERYTHING

(3 Invitations From Jesus That I Must Respond To)  
Isaiah 55:1-13



**YOU ARE INVITED**

- ◆ To Be Strong
- ◆ To Be Seeking
- ◆ To Be Singing

“Eat that which is good” (Isaiah 55:2)

Bill Kirk

# “APPETITE IS EVERYTHING”

**Text:** Isaiah 55:1-13

**Subject:** “Invitations From God That We Must Respond To”

## Introduction

1. Isaiah 55 is known as the “Invitation chapter” from the Lord.
2. No other chapter in Isaiah (reveals the heart of God for your soul and mine) as this chapter.
3. It is a picture of Jesus crying out to you and me with these words

- ◆ In (V.1), “Come to the waters” “Come buy and eat” “Come and buy wine and milk”
- ◆ In (V.2), “Eat that which is good”
- ◆ In (V.3), “Incline your ear and come unto me”
- ◆ In (V.6), “Seek the Lord while He may be found”
- ◆ In (V.7), “Return unto the Lord.

**Question:** Why is Isaiah 55 in our Bibles?

- ◆ To encourage all of us to spirituality.
- ◆ To encourage all of us to live with focus and on a good diet.
- ◆ To encourage all of us to instant obedience and absolute trust.
- ◆ To encourage all of us to respond to the Lord’s invitations.

**Question:** What does it mean in v.1, to buy wine and milk without money?

**Question:** What does it mean in v.2, to delight your soul in fatness?

**Question:** What does it mean in v.5, to seek the Lord while He may be found?

**Question:** What does it mean in v.7, to receive abundant pardon?

**Question:** What does it mean in v.8, that God’s ways are not your ways?

**Question:** What does it mean in v. 13, that a changed life from thorns and briers to a fir and a myrtle tree, will be a name for the Lord?

## (3 Pinpoint Invitations From Jesus)

### I. Jesus Invites Us To Be Strong (On The Inside) (Vs. 1-5)

Notice (v.2) “Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto Me, and (what?) ...eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness”.

**Question:** What is the Lord saying here?

**Answer:** He is saying two things:

- #1. Earthly objects and aspirations will never fill the void created by God (temporal things cannot satisfy our deepest need).
- #2. Heavenly objects and aspirations are the only things that can satisfy us (and make us strong in the Lord).

- ◆ Alexander wept continually while on the throne of the world.
- ◆ Charles V left the throne for a private life, because, “He found that royalty could not satisfy his soul”
- ◆ In 1923, Jesse Livermore, Leon Fraser and Ivan Kruegger met with 4 others at the Edgewater Hotel in Chicago.
- ◆ The seven men controlled more wealth than the entire United States Treasury.
- ◆ The media held them up as the richest and most successful.

Livermore (the greatest bear on Wall Street) committed suicide.  
Fraser (president of the International Bank of Settlement) committed suicide.  
Krueger (head of the world's largest monopoly) committed suicide.

**Question:** Why were the successes really failures?

**Answer:** Because there is a universal need in us all that only God can meet (and He alone)

**Question:** Pastor, how do you become strong in the Lord?

**Answer:** Appetite is everything (repeat it with me) Appetite is everything.

**Question:** Pastor, what is the appetite that will make me strong?

**Answer:** It is in (v.1) Wine, water and milk.

◆ In (v.1), the word “thirsteth” means “intense desire”.

◆ The word “buy” means “take it for yourself”.

**Question:** What am I to desire (or have an appetite for ) pastor?

**Answer:** Water, wine, and milk.

◆ In the East, wine, milk and water were very meaningful:

#1. Wine is symbolic of gladness of heart:

◆ It was used in the feasts on occasions of joy and festivity.

#2. Water is symbolic of the Holy Spirit

◆ It is the Holy Spirit that refreshes us and cleanses us.

#3. Milk is symbolic of nourishment:

◆ It refers here to those spiritual disciplines that nourish and feed and strengthen our spiritual man.

**(In Other Words)**

◆ Some of the Israelites, were living on junk food.

◆ Some of the poor thought they were too destitute to be spiritual.

◆ Some of the rich thought they could purchase spirituality.

**(But Jesus Says In Verse 2)**

“Eat that which is good, and delight your soul in fatness”

**(In Other Words)**

#1. Our inward soul cannot be satisfied and made strong by external (temporal) things.

#2. There is a consciousness in every soul that we were made for a higher purpose that only God could satisfy.

**(So What Do We Do?)**

(Verse 2) “Eat that which is good” (or)

◆ Partake of the things that nourish your soul.

◆ Pursue the things that have value for eternity.

◆ Possess an appetite that wants God more than gold.

◆ Purpose to feed on the things that fatten your soul.

◆ If wine refers to your joy,

◆ If water refers to your being full of the Holy Spirit,

◆ If milk refers to your spiritual growth,

**(Then Lets Narrow Our Interest) Ditch The Non-Essentials And Live Out Verse 2**

**“Refuse to labor and waste our energies on that which satisfieth not”**

#1. Jesus invites us to “**Be Strong**”

(V.6) “Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near”.

**Question:** What does it mean to seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near?

**Answer:** It means...

- #1...Take advantage of those times when God seems to be speaking clearly to you.
- #2...Take God seriously when He speaks, while we have a window of opportunity.
- #3...Don't miss those seasons when the Spirit is drawing you away from the world.
- #4...Refuse to resist Him, when the Lord deals with you about something specific.
- #5...Don't put off till tomorrow, what God is asking of you today!!!

**Question:** What is a genuine God seeker?

**Answer:** That person who obeys Verses 6 & 7:

- #1. You take God very seriously in word, thought and deed.
- #2. You refuse to resist the Holy Spirit regardless of what anybody else does.
- #3. You will not put off till tomorrow, what God deals with you about today.
- #4. (Is in Verse 7) “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: And let him return unto the Lord” (In other words)

◆ A genuine, transparent, God seeking, growing Christian will (what?)

“Forsake (or abandon) every known thing that comes between the Lord and you”.

**Fact:** We all get our feet dirty at times.

**Fact:** We all will get bombarded by evil thoughts.

**Fact:** We all will face distractions to our destiny.

**Question:** What does the Lord tell us to do whenever we wander into forbidden territory?

**Answer:** “Let him return unto the Lord”

◆ “But pastor, I've stumbled before” I've messed up big time”

◆ “Pastor, how can God restore those who sin?”

#1. If we are willing to forsake and return, (then) #2. God is willing to forgive and pardon.

(Notice verse 7) (God will do two things for those who are honest with God).

#1. Mercy (and) #2. Pardon

#1. “God will have mercy” (Means:)

- ◆ You will receive what is needed instead of what is deserved.
- ◆ You will overcome any distance between you and God.
- ◆ You will find God anxious to respond to you.

#2. “God will abundantly pardon” (Means)

- ◆ God abounds in His capacity to forgive.
- ◆ God rejects no one who repents and returns to Him.
- ◆ God willingly wants to cover our transgression.
- ◆ God is anxious to wash your stains as white as snow.
- ◆ God is longing to forgive the person who turns from sin to the Lord.

#1. We are invited to be strong (on the inside) #2. We are invited to be seeking (on the outside)

### III. Jesus Invites Us To Be Singing (On The Outside) (Vs. 8-13)

Notice (V. 12) “For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; and there will be singing and the clapping of hands”

**Fact:** The mass exodus from Egypt was hurried, alarming and dangerous for Israel.

**Fact:** But this exodus from Babylon will be filled with joy and peace and singing on the way back to Jerusalem.

**Question:** Pastor, what do we sing about, clap our hands over and celebrate in the journey?

## (The Joy Producers)

### Joy Producer #1. The Way of the Lord (Vs. 8,9)

“My ways are not your ways”

**Question:** How many of you have ever been tempted to “second guess” the Lord?

**Question:** How many of you have ever had your plans changed by God’s plan?

**Question:** Pastor, how can I sing when my plans are changed by God’s plan? (When unfulfilled expectations disappoint me along the way?)

#### (In Other Words God Is Saying)

- ◆ “I know more than you know”
- ◆ “I see farther than you see”
- ◆ “I’m doing something that you can’t do”
- ◆ “I’m planning things that you can’t plan”

### Joy Producer #2. The Word of the Lord (Vs. 10,11)

“My Word will not return void” (or)

- ◆ “As rain affects the earth that is hard and dry so my Word affects the heart that is hard.
- ◆ “My Word will accomplish a purpose that no one can nullify”
- ◆ “Wherever the Word is sown, I’ll produce an intended result”
- ◆ “Although you think the Word has been sown in vain, it will ultimately be successful.

### Joy Producer #3. The Work of the Lord (Vs 12,13)

**Question:** Why so much joy in verse 12? **Answer:** Because of verse 13.

- ◆ “Thorns have turned to Firs” (and)
- ◆ “Briers have turned to Myrtle trees” (What does it mean?)
- ◆ Thorns and briers are symbols of uselessness and desolation.
- ◆ Firs and Myrtle trees are symbols of beauty and usefulness

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Under the gospel of the Lord, great changes will occur in the hearts of people.
- ◆ God by His Spirit, will affect moral change in your heart and mine.
- ◆ What was once overrun and overcrowded with thorns and briers, will be plowed, cultivated, weeded and permanently changed.

#### (So Much So In Verse 13)

“It shall be to the Lord for a name” (or)

- ◆ Your life that has been changed will be the advertisement of the Lord.
- ◆ Your changed life will be God’s drawing power on earth.

#### Conclusion

##### #1. You’re invited to be strong (How?)

- ◆ By spending your energies feeding on a good diet (appetite is everything)

##### #2. You’re invited to be seeking (How?)

- ◆ Responding immediately when God speaks to you and receive abundant forgiveness.

##### #3. You’re invited to be singing (How?)

- ◆ You believe God’s ways are higher than yours.
- ◆ You believe God’s Word will ultimately prevail.
- ◆ You believe God’s work can remove thorns and briers from the hardest heart that wants to be changed.

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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