

God Will Abundantly Pardon (Uniqueness of God)

Isaiah 55:6-9; 30:15-22; 57:15

Thesis: The God of the Bible is unique and not like any other god. What sets Jehovah apart from the false gods? In this lesson we will look at the beauty of an infinitely high and holy God stooping to forgive and receive sinners like us.

Introduction:

1. God is holy and omnipotent:
 - a. 1 Kings 8:27- Solomon's expression of heaven of heavens which cannot contain Jehovah, and neither can any temple built by King Solomon.
 - b. 1 Timothy 6:16 - "Paul's light which no man can approach unto"
 - c. Zechariah 2:13 - "All flesh should be silent before the Lord; for He is aroused from His holy habitation..."
 2. There is no god who is this powerful, this holy, and at the same time this loving who is willing to serve us in the sense of saving mankind and dwelling with us.
 3. However, God has some conditions, and has every right to set conditions.
- I. Seek the Lord
- A. Background of text ¹
 1. Isaiah 55 - figurative description of Zion in 54:11-12 very similar to John's vision of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God (Rev. 21:2). John then invites (Rev. 22:17) "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!, ...hears, Come!...thirsty Come!...wishes the free gift of the water of life.
 2. Isaiah 55 also contains the similar invitation to participate in the blessings of the renewed Zion
 3. Both invitations are equally gracious and urgent, one was physical (then) and one is spiritual (now)
 4. Isaiah 55:1-5 - God invites Israel to quit pursuing things that do not satisfy the soul, to give up her idols, to give up her flesh and pursue God and His relationship.
 - a) At one time God made sure the people went hungry (Dt. 8:3) to teach them that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (Mt. 4:4)
 - b) Israel was spiritually, emotionally and morally bankrupt (just like we are now) and it was time for a renewal, it was time for a revival, it was time for repentance!
 - c) "Be holy for I am holy." (**Lev. 11:44**; Her 12:14; 1 Pet. 15:16)
 - B. Seek the Lord (Isaiah 55:6-9)
 1. God wants us to seek Him, depend on Him, wait on Him (**vs. 6**)
 - a) The message is urgent, while He is near, while He may be found (**Luke 14:16-24** - parable of Great Supper the door was shut; **Prov. 1:20-33** - Wisdom cries out in the streets to the naive; "Behold, now is the acceptable time...now is the day of salvation..." - **2 Cor. 6:2, Is 49:8**)
 - b) God will not always be waiting-His patience will end (**Psalms 103:9**)
 2. The essence of wickedness is to fail to seek the Lord, and to look elsewhere for what only God can provide (**6-7**)
 - a) If you are wicked, your sin separates you from God
 - b) True repentance has two sides: Forsake and Turn (1 Thes. 1:9)

¹ Briley, T. R. (2000-). Isaiah. Joplin, MO: College Press Pub.

- c) God's will is to "multiply pardon," if man will only turn to Him.²
 - 3. If you return from your wickedness to God, God will abundantly pardon (v. 8)
 - a) "FOR" introduces the reason why God is willing to pardon abundantly, why He is willing to multiply His forgiveness- because He is not human, He does not think like we do, He does not hold a grudge like we do; once forgiveness has been granted through grace, forgiveness is given wholly.
 - b) This is what makes God so unique among the other gods of all the false religions of all time. Only God can pardon, and only the true God is willing to stoop down from His lofty place to forgive mankind!
- II. High and Exalted One (Isaiah 57:15)
 - A. God is high and exalted, He is holy, set apart from humanity in every way
 - 1. He manifests His holiness by dwelling in the high and holy place AND descending to live and work among the lowly, humble lowly people (Isaiah 57:15) - to revive those who wait on Him. What other god is willing to do that?
 - 2. When God dwells with the humble and lowly it is to give life (John 4:14)
- III. God will not reward us for our self-help (Isaiah 30:15-18)
 - A. The strength of God's people is found in quietness and rest (waiting in the Lord) and not in their own strength.
 - B. But God's people were not willing (15b-16), they rebelled by putting their trust in their horses
 - C. As a result, God gives them and their self-reliance over to defeat (vs. 17)
 - D. But God wants to show His mercy on those who wait on Him, who rely on Him (vs. 18)
 - E. As soon as man realizes that he cannot do it on his own strength and turns to God, then God is glorified. God works for those who will receive His help and allow Him get all the glory.
- IV. The result? (Isaiah 30:19-22)
 - A. At the very sound of our cry for help God will respond - like a loving mother responding to the cry of her baby.
 - B. When we cry out for help it will be because we are ready to give our idols up, defile and discard them, turn to God completely!
 - C. Phil. 3:8, and a menstrual cloth Ezekiel 7:19-20

Application:

- 1. God is unique in that He stoops down to dwell with His creation to work for us in the way of salvation.
- 2. God waits for us to repent and turn to Him.
- 3. As long as we are self-reliant God will allow us to destroy our selves (Romans 1:26, 2:5)
- 4. As soon as we are ready to cry to the Lord for Help He will respond.

Conclusion:

- 1. Matthew 5:3, 5 - Poor and Gentle
- 2. Plan of salvation

² Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1910). Isaiah (Vol. 1). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

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