

Congregational handout; outline sermon text on following pages

**Sermon Notes & References**

**“Man’s Need Filled”**

**Isaiah 55:1-5**

**January 1, 2012**

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4. What lies behind man’s universal need<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **Jeremiah 29:4-10**

<sup>2</sup> **Revelation 4:11**

**C. God’s Universal Invitation ..... 55:3-5**

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<sup>3</sup> **1 Peter 1:18-19**

<sup>4</sup> **Luke 1:32-33, Acts 13:34, John 4:13-14, 7:37-39, Revelation 22:17**

A. Introduction

1. "Priceless"

- a. you have probably seen and heard these advertisements
- b. "Priceless" is their tagline and they have been around since the 1997 baseball World Series
- c. one after another are depicted precious moments with family and friends, out enjoying nature, and so on
- d. then comes the closing slogan
- e. "There are some things money can't buy. For everything else, there's MasterCard."

2. God thought of that slogan first!

- a. 'without money and without price'
- b. the thing that really matters, man's greatest need
- c. the eternal salvation of a person's soul
- d. cannot be earned, nor merited, nor purchased
- e. because it comes from God's gracious hand
- f. and is there simply for the taking

B. Man's Universal Need

1. our text begins, 'Alas! every one that thirsteth, ...', 55:1 (EJY)

- a. underlying this verse is an unstated assumption of the deep-seated need of mankind
- b. the cry is that of an oriental water carrier who advertised his wares by crying out in this fashion
- c. you have heard the Yiddish expression, 'Oy vey' which is a rendering of the Hebrew, 'Hoy vay' – that is 'Oh pain' or 'Oh woe' – a cry of dismay or exasperation
- d. 'Hoy' begins this verse: a word to grab your attention; but also a word with an undercurrent of sorrow
- e. Isaiah, the evangelist, expresses sadness for the thirsty people and their need – a need illustrated by thirstiness – but in reality, as the context shows – a spiritual need

2. the reality of mankind's spiritual need
  - a. is made evident in many ways, universal to mankind
  - b. consider, for example, the many religions that exist: which men pursue in search of spiritual fulfilment
    - (A) they differ in many of their details
    - (B) but are alike in that they look outside of the physical realm for the satisfaction missing in life
  - c. or, again, consider the activity into which people throw themselves, seeking that fulfilment: their work; the arts; the pursuits of pleasure in eating, travelling, and so on
  - d. or, the subtle suggestion of that Mastercard slogan, that the 'everything else' possessions will round out your life, completing the something still missing
  
3. what lay behind Israel's need?
  - a. Isaiah is speaking prophetically to Israel in exile in the days to come, when they would be resident in Babylon, a time described in more detail in Jeremiah 29:4-10 – 4 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, 5 'Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. 7 Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.' 8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. 9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,' declares the Lord. 10 For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'"
  - b. the Jews did settle down to follow the first part of these verses, ignoring that last verse: they made it permanent
  - c. so that in Christ's day, Babylon was the second largest Jewish centre – descendants of those who had ignored the prophetic call to return to the land promised to them
  - d. so our text continues with the sad question, 'Why do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which is not satisfying?', 55:2 (EJY)

e. but this passage addresses a more universal need

4. what lays behind man's universal need?

- a. Augustine, in the first paragraph of 'The Confessions,' says, 'Thou awakest us to delight in Thy praise; for Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless until it repose in Thee.', a reference in part to Revelation 4:11
- b. the reason goes back to the first chapters of Genesis where mankind is put in God's garden so that they could have fellowship, a fellowship broken by sin
- c. the enmity between God and man resulting from sin is the source and reason for mankind's universal need

C. God's Universal Invitation

1. listen to the gracious invitation of God

- a. '... come to the waters, and he who has no money; come, buy and eat without money and without price wine and milk.' 55:1b (EJY) and in the next verse, 'Hearken, hearken unto me, and eat that which is good, and your soul shall enjoy itself in fatness.', 55:2b (EJY)
- b. it isn't skim milk that God is offering in the invitation to His banquet; nor 2% – it is the cream! it is the good, the very best – that which our innermost soul needs
- c. the invitation is expressed as a commercial transaction, and yet it is a very strange transaction – a buying, yes, but a buying in which no money is exchange, no price set
- d. and yet, it was not without cost; it was not without price as is realised when you go back to Isaiah 53
- e. for the apostle Peter writes, '... knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.' (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- f. we are invited to a banquet for which God has paid fully the price; that is why it is gracious; it is by His grace

2. the invitation continues

- a. 'Incline your ear and come unto me, hear and let your soul live; and let me make with you an eternal

covenant, the faithful mercies of David.’ 55:3 (EJY)

- b. God made a covenant with David that one should sit on his throne forever; the NT shows clearly that this was to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ – as part of the Christmas story we read Luke 1:32-33, ‘He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.’
- c. and Paul quotes this verse in Acts 13:34, stating that the resurrection of Christ was to fulfill this promise
- d. so it is the Lord Jesus Christ who continues the life-giving invitation, the remedy for the sin-sick soul; to
- e. the woman at the well, John 4:13-14, ‘Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”’
- f. all in John 7:37-39, ‘Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.’, and even now
- g. in Revelation 22:17, ‘The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.’
- h. so that it is given to the bride, the church of Jesus Christ, to continue to sound forth the gospel invitation, that man’s deepest need be filled: his salvation from sin and his reconciliation to his Creator God.

#### D. Conclusion

1. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, in preaching on this text, spoke these words: ‘The spiritual blessings promised and provided in the gospel comprise all that man can need. They are described in the chapter before us as “water,” refreshing and cleansing – the “water of life,” whereof if a man drink he shall never thirst again. They are next described as “wine,” the wine of joy, exhilarating, comforting, “making glad the heart of man;” a wine in which is no woe, but fulness of holy delight. These blessings are thirdly represented as “milk,” for milk is almost the only article of diet which contains everything that is necessary for the support

of man, and therefore it is a type of the satisfying qualities of the gospel. He who receives the gospel of Jesus Christ has all that his soul can possibly need for time and for eternity, so that water, and wine, and milk set forth a full supply of life, and joy, and satisfaction for our spirits.<sup>1-2</sup>.

2. and the invitation to these blessings is so simple:
  - a. come! eat! drink! live!
  - b. buy, but without price, for Christ Jesus has paid the price
  - c. I give this invitation to you this morning
  - d. and in turn, in this year that lies ahead of us, let us relay this same gracious invitation to all that will listen.

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Except as noted otherwise, quotations are from the New American Standard version, used by permission. Various other English versions of the Holy Bible may be used in this sermon. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in {braces}. Versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
ERV	The Revised Version of 1885
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers

Some of my favourite commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

BM – Biblical Museum, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870

EBC – The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan

Volume 6, Isaiah, by Geoffrey W. Grogan, Principal, Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, Scotland;

EJY – The Book of Isaiah by Edward J. Young; © 1965; Wm. B. Eerdmans

K&D – Commentary on the Old Testament, by Keil & Delitzsch; Volume 7, Isaiah, by Franz Delitzsch

Kerux – The sermon and illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick to be found at the web-site, [www.holwick.com](http://www.holwick.com).

2. *Without Money and Without Price*, by Charles Haddon Spurgeon in Spurgeon’s Sermons, Volume 10, page 87, Baker Books, 1996, ISBN-0-8010-1113-2