A Life of Plenty

Isaiah 55: 1-2

I remember as a young boy seeing my grandparents struggle to survive. They were common people who had worked hard, but never acquired much wealth. They had health problems and simply buying medicine was, at times, almost impossible. I wondered why good people had to suffer. Why couldn't someone help them?

Wouldn't it be great if there were a place where those in need could find what they needed and never be turned away? Well, there is such a place, but we must look through spiritual eyes to find it. God has given us an offer that is too good to refuse. Today I would like to look at the benefits available to the children of God as we consider: A Life of Plenty.

<u>I. The Invitation</u> (1a) – Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters. Our society is filled with various opportunities and invitations. My mailbox is filled with them quite often. We must be careful and read the fine print before accepting most of them. Our text presents an invitation that is trustworthy and of great benefit. Let's look a little closer.

<u>A. Its Source</u> – People are searching today for a means to get ahead. They are always looking for those good deals. The trouble is they are hard to find, and many never look in the right place. This invitation is offered by God Himself.

- It is no ordinary invitation, but one that reveals a sense of urgency. The word **Ho** is spoken to get the attention of the hearer, emphasizing the importance of the matter. God is speaking to the hearts of men as He presents this special invitation.
- Are you ever amazed that God would take the time to consider us at all? Isn't it amazing that Almighty God is interested in the well being of sinful men? You may not realize it, but God wants you to live a life of victory in Him. Ps.8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? It thrills my heart to know that God cares about me!

<u>B. Its Specifications</u> – Ho, every one that thirsteth. Many invitations are extended to select or exclusive groups. Often financial or social status dictates these invitations. We will likely never be invited to the White House or to a luncheon reserved for the rich and famous.

- Aren't you glad the invitation of God isn't limited to the elite of society? It isn't given to a select group, but to everyone! The only requirement for accepting God's invitation is a desire to come! The invitation has been given, but many times we fail to respond.
- How many blessings do we miss because we fail to accept what God has offered? I really believe He would bless us more if we would only come unto Him. Rom.8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? I fear we are rarely thirsty for the things of God! Mat.5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. There is a promise from the Lord; we shall be filled if we will only come.

<u>C. Its Significance</u> – Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters. This isn't an invitation for something of little value or significance. The Lord has offered exactly what we need. He knows our every need and every need He will supply. He is the Water of life to the thirsty soul; the Bread of life to the hungry; Hope for the hopeless; Rest for the weary; a Friend to the lonely; our Anchor in storms; our Shield in battle; our Light in darkness; our Strength in weakness; our Savior and Lord. Jesus is all that we need whatever the circumstance. The invitation is better understood when we consider:

I. The Invitation (1a)

<u>II. The Estimation</u> (1b) — and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Let's consider the value of God's offer. You don't have to be a CPA to realize this is a wonderful invitation.

<u>A. The Expense</u> – We are told to come and buy. All that God has is available to us. But wait; notice the asking price. He that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat. That is a God thing, buying without money! We have the opportunity to partake of the storehouse of God without expense. It is freely offered to those who have need and desire His benefits.

- We've all heard the saying, "There's no such thing as a free lunch." Well, the blessings of God are free, but they are not cheap! The best things in life aren't bought, but freely given. I had nothing to offer; He had everything to give!
- If we had to purchase the blessings of God, we could never afford them. But, through Christ we have access to the riches of heaven! All that we receive is a direct result of what

Christ has done. He paid the debt. We can freely receive without money or price. God doesn't offer on a credit plan; there will be no future bill; it has been paid in full.

<u>B. The Excellence</u> – yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Most often the "sale items" or "closeouts" are offered on out of date products, seconds, or damaged goods. God doesn't operate on the world's economic scale. He isn't offering seconds, overstocks, or leftovers; He is offering His best. There isn't some back entrance through an ally way for those who can't afford the best. Every child of God can approach the throne of grace and receive God's very best!

He is offering that which is essential to our spiritual lives, water, milk, and wine. Water is essential to life; it pictures the new birth. Jesus gives us Living Water, one drink and we'll never thirst again! Milk is essential for healthy growth. It is the staple for newborns. This speaks of God's Word. The Word helps us mature in the Lord. Also He offers wine. In biblical times, the water was often unfit to drink. Wine was added to kill any bacteria it might have. Wine often pictures joy. God desires us to be a people of joy. A heart filled with the joy of the Lord will rid life of the contaminants that cause us to live in defeat. Where else can we get such abundance by simply asking?

I. The Invitation (1a)

II. The Estimation (1b)

<u>III. The Consideration</u> (2) – We have realized what's available, but how much of that have we acquired? Have we really taken advantage of God's offer? Notice:

<u>A. Our Possession</u> (2a) – Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Now I realize that our salvation isn't bought with money and we certainly cannot work enough to obtain it. God isn't implying that we haven't paid enough or worked enough for salvation. He is, however, causing us to look within our own hearts.

• What is the main focus of life? Many today think it's all about a 3 bedroom home, a bass boat, or new cars. Man tends to look toward his physical desires to obtain happiness. God is actually saying: Will all that you have obtained feed your family; will it satisfy the desire to obtain more? Will the things we place emphasis on matter in eternity? Can they guarantee that we will pass from death unto life?

- We must not get caught up in "keeping up with the Jones" and fail to make provision for our souls. The possessions that are obtained from this world will not last; they will not make it beyond the grave! It is foolish to spend life in search of that which isn't eternal and can never satisfy anyway.
- <u>B. Our Potential</u> (2b) hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Life will have its share of difficulty. The Christian life isn't always lived in ease. It is possible to enjoy our lives through Christ. We can find all that we need in the Lord. Life doesn't have to be void, empty of God's abundance. He has so much to offer His children.
- I have eaten at my mother's house where the table was filled with food. There was more than enough to feed those who were there. If anyone left hungry, it was their own fault. God has a table spread for us. We go hungry at times, but it isn't because God hasn't provided. We simply chose not to eat. There is no reason for the people of God to live life without enjoying the fullness of God. "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."

Where are you today? Is yours a life of plenty or are you in need of help from the Lord? He has promised to supply our need. It is available without money or price. All you need to do is come and find whatever it is your soul needs. God wants us to enjoy the benefits He has offered.