

I. True State - Isaiah 58:1-5

1. Like a trumpet - sound it out (**verse 1**)
 2. The people “seem” to do the right thing
 3. Note their sins:
 - rebellion
 - sins
 - verse 2 says they have forsaken the commands of the Lord
 4. The descendants of Jacob
 - Rea -the same as “Israel”
 5. The key word to understand these two verses is “seem” (**verse 2**)
 - Rea -seem eager
 - seem eager
 6. Seem to seek His ways
 - seem eager to come near
 - Rea -these are (then) just words
 7. Very, very common for churches to lapse into just words... and “worship”
 - Rea -Jesus said when you come to the altar and know you have aught against neighbor,
leave your gift and make it right.
 - there’s worship and then there’s true worship (heart worship)
 8. The people justify themselves (**verse 3**)
 - we’ve fasted
 - have you not seen what we’ve done?
 - we’ve humbled ourselves
 - Isaiah responds that they have not treated their workers well - even though they fast
 - Rea -discuss true righteousness
 9. Their fasting ended in fights (**verse 4**)
 - how can you expect your voice to be heard
 10. Is this a true fast? (**Verse 5**)
 - is that what you call a true fast?
 - Rea -going through the motions, and thinking that God doesn’t know the difference
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Notable that they were still “going to church”
 2. Do you think that God doesn’t know what you’re up to?
 - what about the persons in church who are having an affair and think that no one knows?
 - what about those who party on Saturday and expect all to be rosy with God on Sunday?
 3. Here’s an experience - it’s been my experience that some of the hardest people to get along with are also the ones who have the “well-used” bibles? - discuss

II. True Worship - Isaiah 58:6-10

1. True fast it discussed (**verse 6**)

- that's not the fast I've chosen
 - He wants them to "loose the chains" of injustice
 - untie the cords of the yoke
 - set the oppressed free
- Rea 2. When Jesus stood up to read in the Synagogue - He read the Jubilee Passage about "setting the captives free"
- Rea -discuss the type "oppression" that Isaiah had reference to
4. They were to share their food with the hungry (**verse 7**)
- provide for the poor wanderer with shelter
- Rea -there are some very fair reasons why we don't do these things nowadays... discuss
- Rea -how can we rightly help the poor?
- compare Matthew 25:35-36 - when did we see you naked and clothe you?
5. Four changes that would happen if they were sincere (**verse 8**)
- A. Light - like the dawn their light would appear
 - B. Healing - the wounds of sin will be healed
 - C. Righteousness - it will be common in the land
 - D. The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard (protection)
- Rea 6. Jesus had a problem with insincerity - He called it hypocrisy
7. After these things happen - God will answer (**verse 9**)
- He will say "here am I"
- Rea 8. **Verses 9-10** are "if then" statements
- if you do this then God will answer
 - many conceive of themselves as waiting on God to answer, but in reality He is waiting on them to change
 - to really change would be to repent
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Do you think the modern church is "sincere?"
 - do you think that God knows the difference?
 - do you think that the world (our culture) knows the difference?
 2. Their sincerity was or was not marked by actions, not just words
 3. They were indicted by the prophet - who spoke for God

III. True Satisfaction - Isaiah 58:11-12

1. God will guide His people (**verse 11**)
 - providing water - for scorched land
 - a well-watered garden
- Rea -the creation story makes a point to mention the rivers/ waters of Eden - a mark of a flourishing place
2. The waters never fail - once again a mark of a prosperous place - well-watered
- Rea -with wells **and springs the ceasing of the water is always a fear**
3. **You will rebuild (verse 12)**
 - A. Age-old foundations
 - B. Repair broken walls
 - C. Streets with dwellings
- Rea D. Rebuilt

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Beyond this present time, all will be restored
 - water
 - building
2. Return to Eden
 - Three gardens in Scripture
 - Garden of Eden
 - Garden of Forever - hinted at here
 - A Garden between - the Garden of Gethsemane
3. "Guide" His people - means that fellowship is restored
 - there is no comparison for the presence of God!

Blake Hearson - SS Lesson for 11-22-20