



Life Group Notes: “The Real Deal”

Tuesday 1st October 2019

READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER

▪ ISAIAH 55: 1-11

1 “Come, all of you who thirst, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without cost! 2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

3 Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. 4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. 5 Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.”

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

INTRODUCTION

God desires that we come to Him for everything, irrespective of our situations and of the circumstances that we face. He has therefore sent out an invitation to all people to come and partake to a feast (the gospel feast) which has no strings attached as it is completely free!

However, it is necessary that there is a consciousness of need (thirst for God) and that we realise the importance of what is on offer. This “deal” is like no other:

- Firstly, it is a deal from God who is most dependable and faithful (unlike men). Secondly, the deal is only possible through the transactional value of the blood of Jesus who died as the Lamb of sacrifice for the remission of sin (Nothing else can substitute the value of the blood of Jesus and nothing can make the deal acceptable to this end).
- Lastly, the covenant nature of this deal makes it of everlasting consequence; one through which our debt was cleared as part of God’s special commitment to his creation and the redeemed who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

This is the real deal!! The simple question is do you believe it? and do you want it?

TO EXPLORE:

1) Believe that God has a “feast” for you and that it is already paid for!

Jesus Christ paid the price of a costly transaction with His own blood to redeem us; the deal is done, and Christ qualifies us. He is the access point to the feast and the realisation of God’s promises. Let’s have faith and let’s believe that God’s promise is Yes and amen!

- Read **Eph. 2:8** and discuss the cost-free nature of the invite in relation to Salvation.
- Read **Isa 55:1** and who are the ones identified as “those who thirst” OR “those without money”? Are these representing a form of “eligibility criteria” to the feast?

2) God’s invitation seeks a heart of desperation

People often look at the wrong places for solution to their problems. They run away from the deal most time and will then approach God when all else has failed. This is the idea of taking God as a “cosmic aspirin” and yet, **Heb. 11:6** indicate that approaching God requires that we believe that He is [God, the Almighty] but also that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. Being desperate for God will lead us on our knees and will help foster an attitude of humility, diligence in prayer and resilience in seeking God.

- Please, read **Matt.15:22-28** and discuss the attitude of the Canaanite woman. Why did her attitude and humility move the heart of the Lord Jesus?
- Share with others in the group the importance of humility and how it helps guard ourselves against the spirit of entitlement (an attitude translating our doctrine that our service to God should entitle us to be the recipients of His blessings).

3) God’s Intelligence grows in a heart of obedience.

Isa. 55:2b. seems to tie blessedness and obedience to God <<... Listen, listen to me, ... and you will delight in the richest of fare.>>In addition, we understand that we should have a level of expectation in God that is unwearable and trust that God’s Word will produce seed in our life (**Isa 55:10-11**).

- Please, discuss why obedience is important to God? (Please, use any examples from the Bible. examples that have helped re-adjust your understanding.
- How do you treat the promises of God in your life and what are your expectations in time of need?

PRAYER:

- Please, take some time to reflect on the waters of the Holy Spirit, the wine of joy and the milk of the good Word of God which are His free gifts and can provide true satisfaction.
- Pray for yourself, pray for your church and ask God to make of you a vessel of honour and to bless you with clarity and renewed focus when seeking Him. Ask for wisdom and discernment on how to recognise and appreciate the real deal and things which He has put before us to enjoy.