

The Book of Isaiah

Trusting God More #34

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1 KJV, "Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith the Lord."

Review: Isaiah chapter 56 and 57

Chapter 58

Discussion: Read 2 Tim 3:5. Try different translations. What is the warning? What does this verse say to you?

Chapter 58 brings us to the final section of the book of Isaiah. The glory of the Lord has been withheld from Israel. The people had been supercilious (haughty or arrogant) about their relationship with God. They were indulging in their own wicked ways. You may remember they possessed this same spirit after coming out of Babylonian captivity.

What audacity to question God!

In verse 1, the prophet is commanded by the Lord to cry aloud a message that is unpopular. God wanted the prophet to point out their transgressions and sins to a people who thought they were religious. Listen to show my people their transgressions and their sins.

Here's what the people were doing:

1. They were attending temple worship.
2. They were going through all the rituals
3. Yet, their lives were far from being holy.

Read verse 3. What was their attitude about fasting? Do you think they were being sarcastic? Fasting is between God and man. Fasting is private unless one is engaged in a corporate fast.

Read what our Lord had to say about fasting in Matthew 6:16-18.

Read verses 4 & 5. Why wouldn't God accept their fasting? What does it mean to hear their acts of worship were entirely OUTWARD?

Gives some examples of outward worship in 2024.

Verse 7 shares their religion was as cold as a tombstone.

Why couldn't God manifest His blessing and glory in this context?

What did God want to hear and do in verse 9? Their hearts were not ready to receive it.

In verse 10 & 11, God wanted them to practice ONE specific thing that He might bless. He wanted them to be authentic. What does authentic worship mean to you?

In verses 12 & 13, God wanted to repair the wreckage of their sins of the past.

Read verse 16. God gave another specific to them. He gave the Sabbath day to Israel as we have discussed before in Exodus 31:12-17. Let's talk for a moment about the Sabbath and what it meant to them.

- It was meant to be more than just a *form*.
- What does the use of the word *form* mean as it pertained to them?
- It was meant to be a day of rest for their souls.

Unfortunately, they made the Sabbath a day for their own pleasure.

What does the Sabbath mean to you?

The future opens in verse 14. They delayed the glory of God, but they could not delay the plan for the manifestation of His glory.

Chapter 59

The charges continue against the discussion of Israel. Religion had been a "coverup" for them. You will hear this again (sermon)!

God refused to hear their prayers. Their sins are referenced 32 times. Here are some words used to describe their sin: iniquities, defiled with blood, lies, perverseness, vanity, mischief, Addler's eggs, spider's web, viper, works, violence, destruction...

The Israelites were guilty of repeated offences? How many times have you repeated the same sin?

Zechariah 12:11-14 refers to a time of national confession of sin.

Do you think this needs to happen again? What was the real reason Israel was not saved? Sin separates us from God. Their sin had separated them from God.

How had their sins multiplied? The cockatrice is a snake. The serpent's eggs had multiplied.

Why couldn't Israel cover their own sins?

Paul paints a pic of the universal picture of man in Romans 3:15-18.

Take home?