

"Are You Getting What You Want?"
11/16/20
He would say to the consumers of America, the best homes, the most comfortable furniture, the most clever gadgets, and the most
A.M. **"Are You Getting Your Money's Worth?"**

Scripture Lesson:- Isaiah 55: 1 - 13.

Text:- Isaiah 55: 1 and 2.

Introduction:- The prophet Isaiah looked upon a people who longed for happiness and security but they were looking for it in the wrong places. They were running to the market place and to places of amusements, spending their money for the things which brought them no permanent satisfaction. As Isaiah spoke this text, he knew that they would never find satisfaction in the things of the world. (Isaiah 55: 1-2).

Isaiah did not berate them for their sins. He did not snatch the bottle from the drunkard's hand, he did not lecture them about the evils of gluttony, and he did not shame them for their immoral practices. He simply asked them "Are you getting what you want out of life?" "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfieth not?"

If Isaiah were living today he would ask the milling restless throngs, "Are you getting what you want?" "Are you getting satisfaction?" He would speak to the actress, who is popular, and wealthy, but with tired and hungry eyes, "Are you getting what you want?" He would speak to the laborers and workmen of America, who are enjoying the highest standards of living in history "Are you getting what you want?" He would say to the youth of America, who rock to the tune of my

"Old Hound Dog", "Are you getting what you want?"

He would say to the consumers of America, who have the best homes, the most comfortable furniture, the finest food, the most clever gadgets, and the smoothest and most powerful automobiles of any previous generation, "Are you getting what you want?"

Isaiah did not leave them with an unanswered question. He went on to tell them that there is a satisfying way of life, if they would seek it. He exhorted them to abandon their vain searching, and start searching for happiness where it is really found.

His advice is just as timely and appropriate today as it was then. History has undergone many changes, but man remains the same. Modern man has the same longings, the same anxieties, the same dreams and aspirations as ancient man. He still commits the same sins, and falls into the same blunders as his brothers of antiquity. What was the prophet's message to his people and to us today.

He declared that "things" will not satisfy. "Wherefore do ye spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfieth not?" (Isaiah 55: 2)

Solomon, who acquired more property, more knowledge, more fame than any other man who ever lived, testified that all this brought him no permanent satisfaction when he lamented, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." (Eccl:1:2) In the language of today he was saying, "Take it from me! The things will never satisfy.

It was not primarily money that Isaiah was preaching against, it was the wrong use of money. "Why squander

your hard-earned money for that which is not bread
he said. "Why squander your hard earned money for
that which brings no satisfaction?", he argued.

Isaiah was also saying that pleasure will not
satisfy. A philosopher from Europe visited Coney
Island and said, "what an unhappy people it must
be that turns for happiness here." Isaiah would not
have stopped there, he would have said, "Are you
getting what you want here?" "Does this bring sat-
isfaction?"

II. In the spiritual.

Isaiah declares that there is a satisfaction. He
declares that God will satisfy. "Hearken diligent-
ly unto me, and eat that which is good, and let
your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your
ear, and come to me; hear and your soul shall
live." (Isaiah 55:2-3). Jesus said to the discour-
aged, rejected, thirsty, unsatisfied woman of Sam-
aria, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall
give him shall never thirst; but the water that I
shall give him shall be in him a well of water
springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14).

Just as the body of a man cannot live without
water, the spirit of man cannot be satisfied from
God. It is not just a saying, when we say, "God
satisfies." He alone can satisfy our spiritual
thirst. David said, "Oh that men would praise the
Lord for his wonderful works to the children of
men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and fill-
eth the hungry soul with goodness." (Psalm 108:9)

When Satan tried to tempt Jesus into the same
trap made of things that he lures men today, Jesus
said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by

every word of God!" (Matt. 4:4). Bread is important, but it is not all important. Pleasure and recreation have their place, but they must not have first place. Money is necessary, but it is no satisfying substitute for God.

Many people have explored every earthly resource for happiness and failed, but when they came to Christ, they found satisfaction. One of the reasons Communism is losing ground, in some places, is because they promise only material prosperity and give no cause why men should seek the spiritual.

Isaiah declares that there is a satisfaction. He declares that God will satisfy. "Hearken diligently," Isaiah, the prophet, said another thing in our text. He said, "Come buy, without money and without price!" He was saying "Salvation is free!" (Isaiah 55:1) God puts no price tag on the Gift of gifts, it is free. Preachers are not salesmen. They are bearers of Good News, bearers of good tidings that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures. Money cannot buy it. Social prestige cannot help you to acquire it. Morality cannot purchase it. It is, as Isaiah said, "Without money and without price!"

Our God is not a bargaining God. You must do business with him on his own terms. He holds in his hand the priceless, precious, eternal gift of salvation, and he bids you take it without money and without price. The best things in life are free, are they not? The air we breathe is not sold by the cubic foot. The water which flows from a crystal clear spring is free for the taking. Love is free, faith is free, hope is free. You cannot reject God's Grace on the ground that it is too cheap, for the

most precious things in life come to us without money and without price. Only, the cheap, tawdry things have a price on them. So I challenge you, you who have spent your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfieth not, to come to Christ and receive this life giving, soul satisfying commodity fresh from the hand of God, salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

IV.

Now, one last thing. Isaiah said that this offer is for every one. "Everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." (Isaiah 55:1). God's grace leaps over racial barriers, leaps across class distinctions, goes over social bars, and finds its way to every hungry, every discouraged soul. The church of Jesus Christ is the only institution in the world whose doors are open to every class, caste, race, color and nation.

When Christ went to Jericho, he touched two lives. Zacchaeus and Bartimaeus, were the men whose lives he influenced that time. One was at the top of the social ladder, a tax gatherer; the other one was at the bottom of the social ladder, a beggar. Christ saw both of them, not as rich and poor, but as miserable, disillusioned, unhappy men. He gave of his grace to both and sent them on their way. If Christ can meet the need of the highest, and the need of the lowest, then he can meet the needs of all of us who are in between.

Conclusion:- Are you getting out of life what you want? Have you found peace and satisfaction? Do not spend your money foolishly, for that which can never

satisfy. God gave his only Son for your redemption. Turn your life over to him today. You are weary and helpless, weary of striving for peace of mind. You have not gotten out of life that which you wanted. Will you just this moment, trust the saving grace of God, may the Lord cleanse you of your sin and make one who is getting the most out of life.

VI

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