

## Be Restored in '24: Purpose

Isaiah 55:6-13

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Isaiah 55:6-13: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever." (NIV)

### Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of an empty purpose

\_\_\_\_\_: Hey look! Over here! Thirsty? Quench your thirst completely! Even if you are broke and bankrupt! Come and get fine drinks and rich food without a penny!

Isaiah 55:1 (JOT)

Struggling \_\_\_\_\_: Why spend your money and labor and still be thirsty and hungry? Listen to me and you will find a feast of enriching goodness! You will delight in the richness of your soul! Listen very closely! Follow my ways and listen to me!

Isaiah 55:2-3 (JOT)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ the strength of God's purpose

\_\_\_\_\_ repentance: Seek the Lord when you realize you have lost your way. Call out to him when you realize you hunger and thirst for righteousness. Let the unyielding heart forsake their self-salvation and the lawless person their own self-centered purpose! Let them return...

Isaiah 55:6-7 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ with forgiveness: He will have mercy and forgiveness for all your sins! "My purposes are not your purposes and my ways are not your ways", says the Lord. "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so my thoughts are above your thoughts and my ways above your ways!"

Isaiah 55:8-9 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ hope: It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. You will live in joy and peace.

Isaiah 55:11-12a (NLT)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ the sent Word

\_\_\_\_\_ our direction: The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

John 10:10-11 (NLT)

### Spiritual Action Step:

It is a challenge to orient our lives to the words of Jesus: *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.* (Matthew 6:33, NLT) **Are you at a turning point for your life?** Trust Jesus to give you the light to find your way home! Turn your heart towards trusting God and you will find the joy of God's presence. This week read, Isaiah 55 and John 10 to allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with joy and hope.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NLT: New Living Translation.