

Why is Isaiah 58 So Important for Christians Today?

A Vital Message! Isaiah 58...

Can it bring healing to our land?

A Poetic Paraphrase and Exposition of Isaiah 58

By Bob Sanders

Shout it out loud; Don't hold back!
Proclaim My Vital Message that has suffered such lack!
Raise Your Voice like a Trumpet Blast!
Broadcast it with fervor and stand fast!
Announce to the House of Jacob their rebellion and sin;
Declare to all My beloved spiritual children:
That outwardly the bowl looks clean but it's filthy within,
For though... day after day they seek Me out,
In the face of the poor, I'm forgotten... without a doubt!
Eager...they seem to know My ways,
Yet forget Me in "the least of the brethren" day after day!
They act as a Nation that has done right,
Yet in discerning the rights of the needy they have no light!
They think they have not ignored My commands,
Yet refuse to understand
My Heart and Desire to love the poor through them--
As the destitute go neglected in every land!
Traditioned to be barely willing or able
to give more than the crumbs off their table
They ask Me for just decisions as if eager to draw near,
Yet in spite of this eagerness...the Isaiah 58 message... they refuse to hear

Know assuredly that the message of Isaiah fifty-eight
Is a healing balm for the church today
This chapter of scripture is crucial to understand
If practiced...It will bring healing to our land!
Therefore, to all who have ears to hear...
Let us explore and take heed to what Isaiah 58 has to say
and reap each precious promise of blessing that it contains...

Is This the Kind of Fast I Choose?

My people say, "Why have I fasted, yet You refuse to see?
Why have I humbled myself, yet You won't answer me?"
In response I say,
Shall fasting in exploitation, anger, debate and strife bring Me nigh?
Will a fast of this kind be heard on high?

Know assuredly that I don't need...
for you to bow externally
to Me as a reed
For... My Heart bleeds
for something else entirely
So, open your heart, and listen to Me...
Hear the cries of the poor and help those in need!
Is this too non-theological and abrupt?
To Love not in Word only, but in Truth and in Deed--
These are the noble things that lift Me up...
Lying in religious sackcloth and ashes isn't what I require.
Compassion, not sacrifice, is what I desire!
Religious sacrifice without compassion is not an acceptable fast!
Weary I am of those dead religious, fruitless traditions of the past!
Open your heart and open your hand
to the poor and needy in every land
Offer to Me unblemished lambs
through benevolently serving "the least of the brethren"
But not with mere crumbs off your table or things you might trash,
For therein their rightful hopes would be dashed--
And I'd be dishonored!
Rather...
Give cheerfully and generously from your hard earned cash!
For... is not the wealth that I've given you truly Mine?
Be then good stewards of it and redeem the time!
For it's not legalism or sacrifice that I require
Nor exhaustive mental beatings through endless meetings
Rather, the straight and narrow way I desire
Is Spirit led compassionate living and cheerful giving!
Lifting the needy out of the ash heap... honors Me
This pleases me and lifts Me higher
To do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before Me
This is the kingdom lifestyle, which I require
In this compassionate mindset... open your heart and your hand
Bring joy, color, and blessing to the needy in every land!
Stand high upon Christ the Solid Rock
To both see and think outside the box
Rise like an eagle into God's higher worldview
Hear His Call and Commission to go outside the walls
Since it's not about me or you--
but about what the King wants us to do!
His marching orders are to love without borders
ministering to every race, color, nationality and creed
Declaring His salvation of justification, sanctification and glorification
Bringing His Ministry of Reconciliation to every tribe and nation
to open wide the granaries of generosity

to provide nourishing food, shelter and help for those in need
coupled with evangelizing, teaching, discipling, and church planting
through planting, watering and trusting God to give the increase
Not being beguiled from Christ's simplicity and purity
to simply share and simply care...
taking these vital steps knowing that He will be there!

This Is the Fast I Have Chosen

Now, this is the kind of fast I choose.
To bring the forgotten ones and outcasts uplifting news!
Yet not in word alone...
But in Tangible Deeds and Living Words interfused
So our light is not hid
Walking in that same Anointing as Jesus did
Then through Him, we'll be used
So the Father's Glory may be shone
Through Spirit led Words and Good Deeds
That His Incorruptible Seed
within the Good Fruit
may be reproduced in others
reconciling to God's family
many sisters and brothers
Even if we don't understand this, don't quit
We must learn it and make it our habit
till we root through the carnal strife into His Abundant Life
Tapping His Unfailing Springs of Kingdom gain!
Then... like a well-watered garden we'll be sustained
to bring forth fruit in ourselves and others that will remain
He will continually guide us, satisfy our soul and strengthen our frame!

Make time, cut loose of wrong priorities, break the chains!
Uproot ungodly traditions that have become ingrained.
Reach out to those who are crushed, broken, rejected and maimed
Lift up the least of these
Associate with the lowly, honor the meek
Set the captive free, strengthen the weak
Set your priorities now to loose cruel, unjust chains!
In deed and truth, release afflicted ones from their pain.
Set your focus to walk with Him in His Kingdom Reign,
Loving from a pure heart with faith unfeigned
With Spirit Sword, break off every yoke
that oppresses and chokes
Break off burdens and cares
Through fasting and prayer

In my Anointing go and My power will flow

Walk in this Isaiah 58 Life-style

Walk in My compassionate, evangelistic, Isaiah 58 life-style
Make the child laugh and the poor man smile.
Inspire, encourage, and support these precious ones in their suffering and trials.
Bring color, bring joy... go that extra mile.
Plant with joy, water with love
trust Me to rain increase from above.
Scatter abroad your gifts to the poor
Expect Me to give you My Kingdom I have in store
Teach and Preach My Truth, setting the multitudes free.
bring My Kingdom in both Word and Deed!
Train the poor to become rich in faith, to draw near, and follow Me!
BREAK EVERY YOKE, and let the oppressed go free!
Proclaim the Gospel of Liberty and practice the Year of Jubilee.
Pray with faith and Holy Spirit power to set the captive free.
With kindness and encouragement make the widow's heart sing.
Bless the fatherless, by helping them to reach their dreams.
Heal the broken hearted, and release bound ones to walk in liberty.
In the Anointing of Isaiah 61 and 58 follow Me!
In love and joy, bring development and relief.
Never let serving the poor become like pulling teeth!
Love the unlovely, lift the broken, and comfort the contrite.
For their dreams and hopes, be ready to spiritually fight.
Love the poor, judge righteously, speak up for their rights!
Whether they be... Yellow, Black, Brown, Red or White--
Know that, racial prejudice is a demonic parasite...
that we must fight!
Prayerfully pull down these demonic strongholds and speak up for their rights!
Be advocates, fathers and friends-- trustworthy to bring them His Light.
And since we have the world's goods
Let us do all the good that we know that we should!
Let us overcome all apathy, complacency and indifference within
So that the mindset of "out of sight, out of mind"
may not set in as a cesspool of sin
Instead, let the joy of giving successfully begin
In the Spirit of love, power and self discipline

Awake Oh Sleeper

(Lu 12:32-34, Gal.2:10, Ps 4:2, 9:17-20)

Sell your possessions and give to the poor.

And watch Me bring to you the Joy of My Kingdom I have in store!
Remembering the poor... ascribes honor to My Name!
"How long Oh sons of men, will you turn My Glory to shame?"
How long will we play religious games in My Name!
If your own children were in such conditions, would you still do the same?
Let us not go the Way of Cain!
No Longer say, "Am I my Brothers Keeper?"
Hide not our light under the bushel
rather become who we are!
Let Faith-filled deeds shine in us like the Morning Star
"Awake Oh Sleeper"
excel in His worldwide vineyard as effective sowers and reapers
In the mindset of being our brothers keeper
For His glory...let us equip and release
to cause His Great Commission outreach to exponentially increase!
It's time to leave our ingrown views to seize His worldwide views.
Let's learn in the pews, but then file out to spread His Good News!
Let the walls of dead godless tradition crumble and fall,
So we may rise up passionately to follow His call!
Let us stop hiding from our own flesh and blood
Break open the Egyptian granaries and dams in our hearts
To pour out His love and generosity like a flood
Into the deserts and wastelands!
As extensions of His hands--
Feeding the Hungry, Protecting the Unborn, Clothing the Naked Ones.
Loving them as we would our own daughters and sons.
Don't let the inadequately sheltered and homeless helplessly roam--
Build solid homes or bring them into your own!

If You Do These Things-THEN

If you do these things-THEN!
Unfailing Blessing will spring up for you time and again!
His light shall break forth like the dawn!
From darkness to light, depression shall gradually pass on
And finally be gone!
Your healing shall quickly appear!
And when you pray to Him, He will say, I am here!
Like a Vanguard, His Righteousness shall go before you
cutting the edge, forging the way, to carry you through.
To now be free from fear
as the glory of the Lord will guard your rear
When you cry out and call for Me I shall be nigh
I shall answer your call and say, "Here Am I".
IF YOU put away the yoke of oppression

And reach out in truth and Godly affection;
 IF YOU put away the pointing finger and malicious talk,
 And let uplifting, hope-filled words replace gossip and squawk.
 IF YOU spend your soul in behalf of the hungry,
 nourishing hungry bodies and setting distraught souls at liberty
 THEN, you will know what it means to be used of Me!
 As you satisfy the needs of the oppressed--
 the fatherless, the widows, and those in distress,
 THEN, you will know what it means to be truly blest.
 For in your darkness His Great Light shall arise!
 Your deeds sprouting from faith shall soon come alive!
 Your night will become like noonday
 He will guide you continually day after day!
 He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
 Since your life is set on Solid Rock, rather than shifting sand
 He will also strengthen your frame
 for you're not atrophying on the bench in shame
 You're exercised in something far greater than status quo and worldly games
 You have fully embraced His Noble Race
 of bringing honor to His Glorious Name
 Choosing to count the cost
 To love the Lord, serve the poor, and reach the lost...
 As you do these things, THEN...
 You embrace one of the greatest promises ever made to the children of men --
 "You will be like a Well-Watered Garden
 Whose Springs Never Fail!"
 Your spirit roots will drink to satisfaction again and again.
 You're soul shall immerse in His Love which prevails
 Marynating in His Springs that never fail
 He will breathe fresh Winds of Eternity into your sails.
 As your noble ship filled with fruitful dreams launches out from the beach
 into the Majestic Son-Rise and adventurous seas of fruitful outreach,
 You will be called Restorers of Eternal Paths and Repairers of the Breach!
 With His Word as your Sword and His Faith as your Shield
 Breaches will be Repaired and lives will be rebuilt
 Relationship Nets will be mended to bring forth a bountiful yield
 As you engage the Isaiah 58 lifestyle to bless those in need,
 You will forge ahead fruitfully to -Make A Difference- indeed!

Walk in His Sabbath Rest

As your faith, deeds, spirit, body and soul are immersed in His Sabbath Rest,
 As His Words and Ways become your delightful quest,
 As His Isaiah 58 and 61 Anointing becomes your Two Edged Sword...
 THEN you will truly find Your Joy in the Lord,

As an Eagle rising up into flight,
He will cause you to soar high into His Heavenly Heights!
But don't hesitate
For it's time to Seize the Day!
Proclaim this Vital Message that's suffered such lack!
Shout it out loud; Don't hold back!
Preach and teach the message of Isaiah 58
Read it, study it, teach it, live it
And don't tire of building in the multiplier
Don't Delay for the Need is Great!
Put on the Loving Armor of His Presence
Stay the Isaiah 58 course so You will make a difference
Don't let indifference be hid in our silence
Don't let omission dam His Great Commission
Don't let greed and control stranglehold
The blessing of His Abundant Flow
In His confidence stand fast!
Raise Your Voice like a Trumpet and let it Blast!
For Jesus our King commissioned us to bear fruit that will last!

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