

Airtight

Isaiah 58:9-12

Sermon Introduction

A. His Heart (vs. 9-10):

1. Then – This is in reflection of verses 1-8; IMPORTANT!
 - a) Pay attention to vs. 6-8, 13.
2. Called – Because of verses 1-8, we can now make a sustained, loud request to get the Lord's attention for the specific issues before us. This call never stops. It is an unceasing behavioral pattern for each believer (1 Thess. 5:17).
3. The Lord - Notice Isaiah did not say God because he is trusting in the covenant that the Lord is faithful to honor and powerful to maintain. The Lord also has authority to do whatever is necessary to make all that needs be done come true.
4. Answer; Replied - All that is brought before the Lord is heard (because of verses 1-8) and the Lord responds based on the request made.
5. You will cry – This cry is an effort to constantly seek relief because we recognize circumstances are difficult and dangerous.
 - a) Calling is one thing and crying is the next.
6. He will say – The Lord will not ignore us. He will provide us a vocal response (now in the NT with His word complete we have everything we need; 2 Pet. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:17) and reveal Himself to us; 'Here I am' (Christ came and because of salvation we can become like Him and as His friend, He will tell us everything; John 15:12-17).
7. Remove the yoke from your midst – We must turn aside to a new way of life that causes the device called a yoke that was placed around a prisoner (a crossbar on a carrying-frame for puttering or transport; 1 Ch 15:15) to be removed from the presence of the people.
 - a) A fast is a day to afflict the soul; if it does not express true sorrow for sin, and does not promote the putting away of sin, it is not a fast. These professors had shown sorrow on stated or occasioned fasts. But they indulged pride, covetousness, and malignant passions. **To be liberal and merciful is more acceptable to God than mere fasting, which, without them, is vain and hypocritical.** Many who seem humble in God's house, are hard at home, and harass their families. But no man's faith justifies, which does not work by love. Yet persons, families, neighborhoods, churches, or nations, show repentance and sorrow for sin, by keeping a fast sincerely, and, from right motives, repenting, and doing good works. The heavy yoke of sin and oppression must be removed. As sin and sorrow dry the bones and weaken the strongest human constitution, so the duties of kindness and charity strengthen and refresh both body and mind. Those who do justly and love

mercy, shall have the comfort, even in this world. **Good works will bring the blessing of God, provided they are done from love to God and man, and wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit.**¹

8. Pointing; Sent – The pointing of the finger is a way of saying we need to remove an intentional act of stretching out and shooting arrows at others in violation of the Word of God.
 - a) The putting forth of the finger, i.e., in (false) accusation of the innocent.
9. Speaking wickedness – To speak wickedness is to purposefully and verbally communicate in a manner that violates the word of God. The person speaking does not appear to have respect or regard for who the Lord God is and stands for.
10. Give yourself – The reference here to give oneself is a predisposition to continually provide what benefits the needs of others until it is completed. To this purpose, a person gives a meaningful part of their lives to see this through. (Matt. 25:31-46)
11. Satisfied - Satisfying the afflicted is to bring them to a fullness, so that what is causing the affliction does continue to tear them down.
12. The desire of the afflicted – The desire of the afflicted or those being punished in an unjust manner as in the case of Sarah and Hagar. This is because the person being afflicted is defenseless, they lack the power to fight back while being humbled.
13. Then your light – Notice this says “your” light, not Christ who is the light of the world.
14. Then your light – Our faithful response to the Lord (vs. 9) after fasting provides clarity, wisdom, life, and happiness to everyone involved.
15. Rise in darkness – Like the sun rising in the morning so the work of the Lord will rise.
16. Gloom like midday – Our distress, failures or punishments will be what is mostly exposed.

B. Promises He Fulfills (vs. 11):

1. Lord will continually guide you – The Lord, who has all authority and power and is committed to His covenant, will tenderly lead us out of our trouble, so that we are eventually back on the right path.
2. Satisfied your desire in scorched places – The Lord will nourish us and provide us the fullness of life so that we are complete with whatever our needs may be (Luke 12:31-34) no matter how extreme the circumstances.

¹ Henry, M., & Scott, T. (1997). [*Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*](#) (Is 58:3). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems.

3. Give strength – God will forever provide us the ability from the inside out to feel refreshed and revitalized.
 - a) But bones are often spoken of as though they were the organic expression of a man’s whole being. They rejoice and sorrow, tremble and praise, rot, and melt.²
4. You will be like a watered garden – No sprinkler system; people manually watered the garden in a very dry climate. God will also nourish us (Psalm 1:1-3) by way of the Holy Spirit in the NT so we do not thirst (John 3:4-8; 5:13-14; 6:35).
5. Spring of water – This ministry of the Holy Spirit is a constant pouring of the Lord in and through us (Eph. 3:14-17; Titus 3:4-6).
 - a) **A spring of water.** The outgoing godly influence of a warm believer who shares his blessings with others.

C. He Rebuilds What’s Broken (vs. 12):

1. Those from among you will rebuild – The reestablishing of what needs to be put in place is completed by those believers who are among them. It is the community that must be engaged in the process that blesses God.
2. Raise; To establish – The Christian community needs to be completely resolved to reestablish what has been thrown down by trouble.
3. You will be called – Because the community is committed to the work, those paying attention will make a sustained, loud message that specifically recognizes all that they are seeking to accomplish.
4. Repairer of the breach – Those who remain faithful will be recognized as those who meticulously restore what led to despair in the city.
5. Restorer – Because of our commitment to the Lord and the Christian community, we will be able to bring things back to where they once were.
6. Dwell; Abide – Once restored everything will be permanent.

² Guillaume, A. (1942). [Isaiah \(40–66\)](#). In C. Gore, H. L. Goudge, & A. Guillaume (Eds.), *A New Commentary on Holy Scripture: Including the Apocrypha* (Vol. 1, pp. 476–477). New York: The Macmillan Company.