

SERMON NOTES Sunday 5 May

sunnysidechurch

Bible passage Isaiah 55.1-11

Introduction

- We come to God just as we are and with all that we are
- We come because he invites us so he can refresh us and give us a fresh perspective to go into the week to come

Isaiah 55: An invitation to come to God

1. Come all you who are thirsty (v1)
 - Invitation for those who are spiritually thirsty and recognise their need of God 'Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you' (St Augustine)
 - God's invitation is urgent and universal
2. Let them turn to the Lord (v7)
 - Begins with our recognising our need for God and repenting
 - Repentance is more than saying sorry, it is turning back to God and by the power of the Holy Spirit seeking to follow his way
3. My word...will not return to me empty (v11)
 - God's faithfulness gives us confidence in his promises
 - He fulfilled his promise to send Jesus as King, Servant and Saviour

Conclusion

Jesus says: 'Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.' Matt 11.28-30 (The Message)

Some questions for discussion

1. What do you do when you need rest and refreshment?
2. Read Isaiah 55.1-11. What strikes you about this passage?
3. Rebecca said that God's invitation is urgent and universal. In what ways might that be true?
4. The Lord says that his thoughts and ways are not ours. In what way does this add to our understanding of repentance and turning back to him?
5. God promises that his word will accomplish what he desires (v11). How does this encourage and challenge you today?
6. What might it look like for you to come to Jesus (Matt 11.28-30) and be refreshed today and this week?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.' (Matt 11.28)

Why not spend some time thanking Jesus for his invitation to rest in him and asking him who you know who needs to hear this invitation today?

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