

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, September 13, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 51:1-8
2. Here in our text the Lord is encouraging His people to listen to Him. Knowing this isn't always easy for us, He provides three reasons for us to do so. The first reason He gives is because the Lord intends good things for us. In doing so, He addresses "us" as "you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord." Why does He address believers in this way? What does it mean to pursue righteousness and seek the Lord? Look at Jesus' statement in the Beatitudes in Matt.5:6 to help you answer it. How does Jesus' statement there, where He speaks of seeking and pursuing in terms of hungering and thirsting guide us in properly answering that question?
3. Do you believe that the Lord intends good things for you? Why or why not? How do v.2-3 speak of the Lord's intention to do good for you as a believer? Be thorough, as Isaiah points to a number of things to emphasize this.
4. The second reason Isaiah points to as to why we should listen to the Lord is because of the greatness of His salvation. What is the historical context of v.4-6? How does these verses also point us to the much bigger picture of the salvation the Lord will bring to the nations?
5. In v.6 he clearly points us to the future judgment upon the world, contrasting it with the salvation He will bring to the peoples. How does that reality impact who you listen to and how you live? Read 2 Peter 3:10-12.
6. Read Hebrews 11:23-27. Why is it that Moses listened to the Lord and suffered for Him rather than enjoy all of the riches and pleasures that being a prince in Egypt would have afforded him? What can you learn from this and apply from it?

7. The third reason the Lord provides for as to why we should listen to Him is because the hardships that come from listening to Him are only temporary, whereas His salvation is forever. In doing so, He tells us to “Fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.”

Why does the Lord say this? What is about words people say that so easily puts us on our heels and keeps us from listening to Him?

8. In v.8 the Lord tells us why we shouldn’t fear those who verbally assault us. Why is it? How does remembering what awaits His enemies, along with remembering what awaits you as His beloved child, encourage you to not be intimidated by them, but to listen to the Lord regardless of what it costs you?

9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Psalm 100:3-5

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in Heaven, truly you are good and do good. In your kindness you have set your love upon us and blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. And yet we often lose sight of this. We lose sight of the greatness of our identity in Christ and the abundance of blessings we possess as your beloved people. Rather than coming before you with thanksgiving in our hearts, blessing your great name for your grace in making us your own, we focus on things we wish were different about us or aspects of our lives we wish were different for us. Father, how easy it is for us to forget that you made each of us exactly as you please, and that we are the sheep of your pasture and that you delight in us. Father, we confess that we often

forget our identity as your people and fail to live in accord with it. We do not praise you as you deserve, nor do we express the gratitude you are worthy of. We thank you that in spite of our sin you are good, and your steadfast love endures forever, and your faithfulness to all generations. We joyfully confess this, and we thank you for it. We also thank you for Jesus Christ, who is Lord over all. We thank you that He conquered sin and death and the devil, and that in Him we share in His victory. It is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Colossians 2:13-14

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

[1 Cor. 10:31](#); [Rom. 11:36](#); [Ps. 73:25-28](#).

Q. 2. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

[2 Tim. 3:16](#); [Eph. 2:20](#); [1 John 1:3-4](#).

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

[2 Tim. 1:13](#); [2 Tim. 3:16](#).

NT Reading: Romans 8:24-39

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.