

One Way - God Coming Down to Us

Isa 55:7-11 ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah here calls upon us to forsake our ways and our thoughts pointing out that our ways are not God's ways our thoughts are not God's thoughts. We are to leave our ways and our thoughts and look to God alone as our Redeemer. We dare not trust our own ways nor compare our thoughts with God's because of the great difference between our ways and God's ways. *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's higher than our ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts."* We must understand that there is absolutely no way we, as sinful man, could attain to the perfections of God.

As a child I learned to sing - we are climbing Jacob's ladder as if that vision of Jacob showed us a way to heaven. And sadly I taught my children to sing about Jacob's ladder and the youth of the churches I pastured. Not carefully examining the words of Scripture themselves. For Jacob's response was one of great fear not access to heaven. He realized that he had been in the presence of God and although he called that place the gateway to God, the house of God - Bethel - he did so without the slightest thought of achieving heaven on His own. Rather it was God who spoke in words of Covenant to Jacob, I will be with you and in your seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Having come to a sound biblical understanding of our means of gaining heaven I have come to realize that the thought of climbing Jacobs ladder as a means of gaining heaven is as foolish as Nimrod's descendants hope of building a tower whose top could reach to heaven.

The message here is the message of God's condescending love and mercy toward mankind. The appeal, to leave their own ways and their own thoughts, and yield themselves to God the Redeemer, and to His word, is now urged on the ground of the heaven-wide difference between the ways and thoughts of God and the aimless hopeless thoughts of men In this passage this morning we shall see, 1. The greatness of our inability to enter God's presence. 2. The manner in which God's grace comes to us, and 3. The confidence of seeing God that we have through the written Word. - The Gospel message continues.

A. First we see the greatness of our inability

1. For God's ways and thoughts are far above our ways and thoughts.
 - a. All our ways are but sinful and self-centered
 - b. The thoughts of our heart are only evil continually
 - c. Our thoughts are of getting even, God's is of forgiveness
2. We must understand that God's perfections are far above us being higher than the heavens.
 - a. There is absolutely no way man can reach up to God
 - b. God must condescend and come down to man in order to redeem sinful man.

B. The manner in which God's saving grace comes to us - *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater."*

1. God's mercy comes down upon us as rain or snow.
 - a. It was not us who reached up to God it was Christ who came down from heaven to redeem us.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Rom 10:6-9 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

- b. This was an act of great mercy and kindness.

*John 3:17 For God did **not** send His Son into the world **to condemn the world**, but that the world **through Him might be saved**.*

- c. This is why for you who are trusting in Christ this morning there is now no condemnation. (Rom. 8:1)
- d. This is yours this morning without cost and without price.

- 2. It has come to us through God's revelation of His mercy.

It comes to us by means of His written Word. - So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

- a. This is why we understand the whole of Scripture to be about the Messiah Redeemer.
 - (1) From the very beginning in the promise that the seed of woman would bruise the Serpents head.
 - (2) To the promise that in the promised Seed of Abraham all the nations of the earth would be blessed.
 - (3) To the promise that on David's throne a King glorious and eternal would reign.
 - (4) To the virgin birth of our Savior.
 - (5) To the cross, his resurrection and ascension on high.
 - (6) To the proclamation that in Christ all the promises of God are yea and amen.

- 3. It is only in Christ that all the promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled. - *2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

- a. It is only in Christ that God shows favor to us.
- b. It is only in Christ that we have redemption and covering for our sins.

C. Thus we have this confidence through the written Word of God. - *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

- 1. God's written Word can be trusted.

Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- 2. The accomplished purpose in our behalf is our new birth.

1 Peter 1:23-25 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

Conclusion: It is indeed God's condescending love that has provided so great a salvation.

Rom. 5:19-20 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

As the rain comes down from heaven above, our Lord left the glories of heaven above that He might redeem His elect as Jesus Himself has said.

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."