

Chapter 54 ends with the assurance that the promises given belong to the "servants of the LORD," those who follow "the Servant of the Lord." They were redeemed at Calvary. They have no righteousness of their own. Like all others, they have gone astray. But He sees them in His Son, and justifies and sanctifies them by the working of His marvelous grace. "Their righteousness is from me, saith the LORD" (v. 17).

Isaiah 55:1-56:2

Like Isaiah 54 and 56:3-8, our present passage rests directly upon the description in Isaiah 53 of the redeeming work of the promised Servant of the Lord. It consists of a gracious invitation to all people to avail themselves of the results of what He accomplished there.

The first two verses and the first half of the third present God's invitation in general. From these sentences alone it is impossible to learn much about the exact nature of the invitation. Great stress is laid upon the fact that, while people are diligently laboring to secure that which can never fully satisfy, God is offering them true satisfaction without cost. The invitation is presented in most urgent language; people are called upon to forsake their vain hunt for things that will never give them true happiness and to accept instead the free offer which God is laying before them.

The first two verses give little idea of the precise nature of the invitation. The listener is invited to come to "the waters," to buy "wine and milk," to eat "that which is good" and to let his soul "delight itself in fatness." Clearly most of these terms are figurative. It is not physical bread, water, wine or milk that is meant, but something which may properly be compared to them. They are merely examples of what is desirable and necessary in life. We recall the words of the Lord Jesus to the woman of Samaria in John 4:14: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

The first part of verse 3 shows that the invitation deals with the most essential thing in the world -- spiritual life. This, we are told, is freely offered to all who hear.