

## The Gracious Call of God

*Isa 55:2-5 Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you — The sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you."*

Have you ever said to your children - Did you hear me? When you knew full well they had heard the words you had just spoken but at the same time you knew they were not listening. Kind of like it went in one ear and came right out the other. Here in this passage we hear God calling, listen to me and yet we know men simple do not hear the gracious invitation to life everlasting. We shall consider why men do not hear, and then ask why is it that you and I have heard this call and responded to it. We shall consider the gracious call, what is necessary to hear that call and then why do some hear.

A. The gracious call of God to mankind- *Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live*

1. To listen carefully and to incline your ear means to listen intently
  - a. The reward is gracious, hear what He has to say and your soul shall live
  - b. Let your soul delight itself in abundance.
  - c. One could not ask for more.
2. The call is simple, come and find rest, come and live.
  - a. Come and be freed from sin and death
  - b. Come and receive joy unspeakable and full of glory.
3. Yet we hear some of the saddest words of Scripture as Christ calls to Jerusalem to come to Him

*Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!***

*Luke 19:41-42 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and **wept over it**, saying, "**If you had known**, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.*

B. What is necessary if one is to hear when God calls?

1. One must accept the authority of God over them.
  - a. It is not that the call has not gone out.

*Rom 10:18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."*

- b. Where can we hear God's call today?
- c. The answer is evident, the means of hearing is His written Word

*Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- d. The church is to be that voice today - preach the Word
2. Who will and who will not hear? Or why will some not hear?
  - a. The message is spiritual and men are carnal.

*1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- b. God has not seen fit to grant them hearing or sight.

*Rom 11:8 Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."*

3. Why then have you who are trusting in Him heard and responded?

- a. Remind you that man by nature cannot and will not hear
- b. The answer is this, you are a recipient of a gracious gift from God.
- c. Child of God, God has extended a great mercy to you

Matt 16:17-18 "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but **My Father who is in heaven.**

Matt 13:14-17 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' **But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;**

4. But we must understand, it is not that His call is not sincere
  - a. It is not that His message is not clear and understandable
  - b. The Bible is not written in some mystical way
  - c. The message is clear and simple

*Jn 3:16 - For God so love the world - gave His only begotten Son - whoever believes - not perish*

The message to men at Pentecost - when they asked what must we do?  
*Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ*

5. There is a simple reason why
  - a. It is that men refuse to hear.
  - b. It is because their hearts are hard against God and His loving mercies.
  - c. The word is Spirit given and the natural man cannot understand it

*1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

6. So why have you heard and responded?
  - a. You didn't hear this on your own - **my Father opened up your ears**
  - b. **My Father gave you understanding**

**CONCLUSION:** Why should men hear and respond? - *and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you — The sure mercies of David*

1. Hear and you eat what is good. - Why waste money on that which cannot satisfy?
2. That you soul might delight itself in abundance. - Why will one go hungry when it is freely offered and freely given.
3. You soul shall live, He that lives and believes in Me shall never die.
4. God will make an everlasting covenant with you.

Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**

Have you been made willing - Give God grateful thanks

Be faithful to proclaim this generous call to mankind - that perchance God will grant them faith and repentance