

## “Feast on This”

- I. **Isaiah 25:9** – <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.
- II. **Have you ever been disappointed in a vacation?**
  - a. Maybe you’ve planned a trip for years that is a dream location
  - b. Perhaps it’s looking forward for months to a visit with a friend or family
  - c. This time of year, quite a few people are looking forward to a hunting trip
  - d. I read an example from an author named Paul Tripp that reminded me of my youth and going camping.
    - i. He says, “I am persuaded that the whole purpose of camping is to make a person long for home! On that first day in the woods, putting up the tent is exciting, but three days later your tent has unpleasant odors you can’t explain. You love the taste of food cooked over an open flame (that’s ash [from firewood]!), but three days later you are tired of foraging for wood and irritated by how fast it burns. You were excited at the prospect of catching your dinner from the stream running past your campsite, which is reported to be teeming with trout, but all you have snagged are the roots on the bottom. You’re now four days in and your back hurts...you’re tired of keeping the fire going...Suddenly you begin to think fondly of home.... Your four days in the wilderness have accomplished their mission. They have prepared you to appreciate home!”<sup>1</sup>
  - e. You see, the world tricks us into thinking it has all these wonderful things, and all it can really do is disappoint.
    - i. Whether we plan a trip to Venice and are disappointed by the odor
    - ii. Or we travel to Belize and get a stomach bug
    - iii. Or we fly to Australia and find out kangaroos like to punch and kick
    - iv. No matter where we go, it doesn’t take long before we just want to go home...
- III. **Isaiah the prophet is writing about home today.**
  - a. He’s not really talking about the home WE have purchased or rent... the home WE have set up so we are comfortable... the home WE call our castle and our place of rest.
  - b. Isaiah, in his prophetic words, wants to instill some hope beyond the world.
  - c. Now the trouble with the Book of Isaiah is that his writing covers about 200 years... meaning he’s writing about things that will happen long after he’s dead, but also about things that are happening during his lifetime.
  - d. God’s chosen people are in trouble – not because they are innocent – but they have pushed God out so much that He’s allowing foreign powers to conquer and take the people into exile.
    - i. It starts with the people in the Northern Kingdom as the Assyrians came in and destroyed everything they had known as home

- ii. And Isaiah prophesies about something that will happen long after he will be dead and buried... the Southern Kingdom, the city of Jerusalem and even the Temple (the presence of God on earth) would be destroyed by the Babylonians!
  - 1. Of course the Southern Kingdom and Jerusalem scoffed at such an insane thought... of course God would never allow such a thing!
  - 2. God did... and they also were conquered and exiled
- e. So here in our reading today, Isaiah is giving some hope in the midst of exile... a promise... a future that will never disappoint.

IV. **The world is not our home.**

- a. The Bible tells us this in several places... what we see and experience now is not our home – because God has a plan to do a complete overhaul.
- b. But we sort of get connected and comfortable in the home we have now...
  - i. I've spoken to many people who say, "I just don't want to die yet, I've got too much to see and do..."
  - ii. "I want to see my grandkids grow up..." or, "I haven't experienced... \_\_\_\_\_" and you fill in the blank.
- c. And then... we have a year like 2020... sin, death... and satan are working overtime to challenge every comfort and safe place we thought we had.
  - i. Hurricanes... forest fires close to home... a new airborne virus that shuts down the entire globe... plots to kidnap a governor and overthrow leadership... a sitting president and multiple leaders are infected with Covid-19... teachings that our great nation was founded on broken principles and beliefs so we must throw it all out and start again... riots, looting, arson, and attacks on authority... hate and division with no discussion – just rejection.
  - ii. And with all this work of sin, death and the devil... Christian churches across the world are closed down or operating by video rather than in-person...and the connection we need so badly
- d. It kind of reminds me of that camping trip where we get out there with all these high hopes and ends with a bear eating all your food, lightning, rain, bug bites, burning yourself in the fire, twisting an ankle and getting lost in the woods.
- e. You thank God that this is not your home... you have the kingdom of God.
- f. Please understand, I do not mean that we reject the physical world and only look for heaven.
  - i. God made creation what? GOOD. He made Adam and Eve what? GOOD.
  - ii. However, we have a physical body and world around us that has been infected by sin – And only God has a cure.

V. **Isaiah gives us a glimpse of our future as we believe in Jesus.**

- a. You see, in the Old Testament times, God's people were exiles in Assyria and Babylon, but even in those terrible times and places, God gave them a promise that they could live by – this is not your forever home.
- b. And so Isaiah envisions a table – a banquet with the very best food, drink and company... the best of friends to celebrate with...
  - i. We come into the very presence of God – and we never have to deal with sin... or death... or the devil's schemes again... we are home.
- c. The promise came in Jesus Christ as He brings the kingdom of God to us.
  - i. The promise was never that we don't have to struggle or suffer... the promise was regardless of our exile and struggles, we have a Savior!
  - ii. "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation," (Isaiah 25:9)
  - iii. In the death of Jesus, His sacrifice on the cross, He opened the gates of heaven for all who believe in Him to join the kingdom of heaven!
    - 1. This means that by God's grace He gives us faith to trust in this beautiful gift of salvation – this beautiful victory over the trials and tribulations of our present day.
- d. And as our reading says, the veil of sin and death is swallowed up, the tears of loss and suffering are nevermore, and we can rejoice.

VI. **By the way, you don't have to wait to take part in this experience...**

- a. It may not be exactly the same, but stop and consider the Lord's Supper
- b. Jesus and the reign of God come near when we take in His body and blood
- c. You might remember that we sometimes say a prayer after communion: "Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood"
- d. Jesus doesn't just call us to feast on the heavenly banquet when we pass from this life to the next... He calls on us to feast on this Holy Supper too
- e. In His Supper, we are connected to the power of Christ's redeeming work, we are connected to the believers around us and the believers in glory, and we experience the promise that we have a seat at the table.
  - i. Can you envision it now? Can you imagine the blessings of paradise with Jesus and the conversations with friends? How great is your anticipation?
  - ii. Believe me when I say that it will exceed your expectations – as everything that is broken and wrong will never trouble you again – you will never long for home as Jesus opens His arms to paradise and says, "Feast on this!" Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Paul David Tripp, [Forever: Why You Can't Live Without It](#) (Zondervan, 2011), pp. 37-39