

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Sermon

Everywhere we look, someone is trying to sell us something. When we drive down the road, the billboards tell us we need a new car. When we turn on the tv to hear the news, we spend half the time watching commercials telling us we'll feel better if we just buy these new medications or we'll be safer if we just buy this home security system. If we read the newspaper, every other page reminds us that we need another insurance policy in order to be cared for in our need. If we open up social media websites we feel the pressure to read this person's article or watch that self-help video.

And it's not just the professional advertisers either. Co-workers encourage us to take that next step up the corporate ladder with the promise that we'll find happiness there. Our neighbors tell us about the vacation that we "just have to take" or the restaurant that we "simply must visit". Or their yard signs tell us who we have to vote for in order to make our country better. Even the family members who love us most urge us to get married, or rent that apartment, or move into that fancy retirement community.

No matter how much we have. No matter how good our lives are. Even the most well-intentioned people of this world are constantly telling us that we need more. And we've even convinced ourselves, that we can always be a little bit better. The scriptures remind us this morning that no matter how hard we work or how much money we spend, the things of this world will not satisfy. And that life we're trying to buy will always remain, just out of reach.

Because we're never content, to just be content.

But, the good news is, that there's another voice who calls us. Calling all those who thirst for something more and all those who hunger to be just a bit better. And there's something different about this voice that spoke through the prophet Isaiah. Because this one doesn't want to sell us anything. This one doesn't call us to buy their product or buy into their plans.

No, this message is approved by the God who created you, and this God doesn't want to trick you out of your money or your time. This God only wants for you to stop.

To turn off all those other voices that call you toward more and more and more. This God calls you to stop working for that which will not last. Stop trying to buy that which will never satisfy. Stop it with all these useless desires. And simply recognize... That you already have... All that you need. God gave it to you. 2,000 years ago. In the gift of God's own Son. God gave you salvation from sin. And liberation from death. And God set you free, from all those other voices that tell you that you are not enough.

Because God didn't mess up when He made you. God made exactly who God wanted. And God didn't skimp on the blessings when God equipped you, but has given you all that you need.

God doesn't need a commercial. God doesn't want your business. God simply just wants you table which has always been set in front of you, with rich foods, bread and wine and milk. With cold water to quench your thirst. And God is calling you, to sit down at that Holy Table, and recognize, that the gifts God has given you are more than enough. That in the air you breathe, there is peace. That in the people who surround you, there is love. That in the life you live, there is joy.

But be careful, just because God won't charge you any money or ask you for any price doesn't mean that a seat at this table comes cheap. For in order to sit and eat of this free gift, you have to give up. You have to give up on the desire for more. You have to give up on all those voices that try to tempt you away from contentment in God's blessings... and toward their own desires, with that neverending chorus of more, more, more. If you want to truly glorify God and enjoy the richness of God's great gifts, you've got to let God's holy waters wash those other voices away. Until all you listen to is the voice of the One who loves you, just as you are. The voice that calls out to you, saying "Come."

Amen.

This sermon was first shared with Aurora First Presbyterian Church, by Rev. Doug Friesema. To receive future communications from the church, please contact:

firstauroraoffice@gmail.com

(303) 364-2609

1585 Kingston St.

Aurora, CO 80010

Aurorafpchurch.com

facebook.com/aurorafpchurch