

While He may be found

Introduction

Priorities in 2019

- Based on a prayer meeting recorded
- **Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)** *(1) Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Together in prayer and worship

- We must spend time... together seeking the Lord
- They were together - and God moved
- We must come together to seek the Lord
- Currently meeting on Wednesday evenings for prayer

Ministry empowered by the Spirit

- From that gathering, the Spirit called Paul and Barnabas into the mission field
- In 2019 - every believer filled / refilled with the Holy Spirit
- In 2019 - every believer used for ministry in the gifts of the Spirit

Active in the great commission

- Outcome of that prayer meeting - Christianity spread among the entire region
- When the Spirit is using us, we will fulfill the great commission

Introduction

Verse shared

- Wednesday, Missy quoted this verse

- **Isaiah 55:6 (ESV)** (6) *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;*
- Really spoke to me

Our objective

- We are making this our priority in 2019
- Everything hangs on a fresh revelation of Him!
- Wednesday nights

Timeframe

- There's a time dependency here
- *while he may be found and when he is near*
- I believe this is our time ALC - to seek the Lord!
- He is near and waiting for us
- **Rev 3:20 (ESV)** (20) *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*
- He's here - waiting for us to cry out to him, to make His presence our priority

Studying this passage - so much more

- As I went home and studied this passage, there's so much more
- I want to share that with you this morning
- Take a bible, and follow along - and we'll just share our way through this passage

Message

Our condition (vv1-5)

Isa 55:1-5 (ESV) (1) *"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (2) Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. (3) Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. (4) Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and*

commander for the peoples. (5) Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Condition

- Hungry and thirsty
- Prophetic about those in captivity
- Spiritually hungry
- Same as seek ye first

The futility of our actions

- v2 "Why do you spend your money ..."
- We are doing what we think we need to do to meet the need
- But it's not working
- We're spending ourselves on what won't really satisfy

Response

- come v1, Listen/Incline/hear v3
- Receive His provision: Waters (living water), milk m

Covenant

Independent of us

- Everlasting covenant
- God makes a promise - he keeps it!
- See the Illustration of David - even though he blew it, God's promise to him endured

Trickling down to us

- God offers relationship with them because of his relationship with David
- keep his word for the sake of the promise He made
- We have entered into relationship with God, because of the faithfulness of Jesus
- He extends to us

His call and promise (vv6-9)

Isa 55:6-9 (ESV) (6) *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; (7) let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares 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.*

Seek the Lord, Call on Him

- We've spoken about this repeatedly in 2019
- Seek: Actively pursue in the hopes of obtaining
- Prioritizing more of the Lord!

Return to the Lord

- We can't go two directions
- To seek the Lord is to turn toward the Lord and away from our ways
- Remember (see v2) what we're doing now isn't working

Compassion and pardon

- In this time of his nearness - he will have compassion
- There is a time when he will judge
- If we come to him now, he will have compassion on us and pardon us
- **John 6:37 (ESV)** (37) *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

Why?

- Why would he receive us? Why would he pardon us?
- God is different than us!
- This is so hard for us to understand - because we *project* onto him our characteristics
- We're not good at compassion and pardon, so we don't think he will
- We have to trust Him - his promise
- We have to turn to him, and walk in his way

The power of His word (vv10-11)

It will do what it was sent to do

- God's word will not return void
- What He has spoken he will do

Hidden working

- Illustration of rain
- It flows from heaven, and returns to heaven
- Along the way it gives life and nourishment!
- Just because we don't see the word working - doesn't mean it's not

Closing / Application

Isa 55:6 (ESV) (6) *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;*

Seek the Lord

- Consistent call this year
- Is your life *working*
- Seek the Lord as your priority

God's word

- Take it in
- Memorize
- Build your life
- **Matt 7:24-25 (ESV)** (24) *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (25) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*

He is working

- Every promise - he will keep
- We do our part (in this case: seek the Lord)
- He will do his part (in this case: satisfy us)