

Last Sunday we saw that the Lord is planning a huge feast for all His people when He returns. There is something else that must take place right before that.

**Matthew 24:29-31**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

What will take place?

There will be a gathering together of all His people.

Preparations for this gathering are already underway. **John 10:14-16, 27-28**

**John 14:1-3** Jesus is coming to gather all of us to Himself... and not just Jewish believers.

**The Lord will gather all His people to Himself from all the nations.**

Isaiah 56 opens the final major section of Isaiah.

1-39 The Book of the King

Though Israel is rebellious and inviting God’s judgement, the Messiah King is coming.

40-55 The Book of the Servant

Though Jerusalem is destroyed, and God’s people are slaves, the Servant Messiah is coming.

56-66 The Book of the Conqueror

Though injustice reigns, and God’s people are powerless, the Conquering Messiah is coming.

This is such an important message. After all, what does this world look like?

**Isaiah 57:1-5, 11**

**Isaiah 59:2-4, 7-8**

This is our problem. It is not a Democrat problem. It is not a Republican problem.

It is not a South Dakota problem. It is not a California problem. It is a human problem.

We need God to set it right. He does it by setting people right and then He makes society right.

You know, you cannot do it any other way.

If we somehow get all the laws and policies right, but people are selfish jerks, we’ve made no progress.

So, the conquering Messiah King is coming and in preparation He is working on changing people.

Because people need changing. Have you noticed?

**I. God’s blessing is for those who do righteousness. Isaiah 56:1-2**

It is important to see that this chapter opens with commands from the Lord to His people.

God’s people are commanded to be who He has called them to be.

And if they will be who He commands, God will bless them. The King is coming to bless them.

Now there are people, maybe even some here, who are bothered by these verses.

You are bothered because it sounds to you like works righteousness. But it is not.

This is consistent with the whole teaching of the Scriptures. Let me show you from the Scriptures.

What the Bible teaches everywhere it this:

1. Every person who is saved is saved by his/her faith in the Lord who makes people righteous and saves them.  
The Lord has saved His people, is saving His people, and will save His people.
2. The saved person, God’s person, lives in obedience to the Lord because he/she loves the Lord.
3. The person who loves the Lord and obeys Him enjoys the Lord’s blessing, now and forever in His kingdom.

Abraham... **Genesis 15:4-6, 22:1-2, 9-14, 15-18**

The Exodus... **Exodus 19:3-6, 32:29**

Jesus... **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Salvation by faith. Salvation means obedience. Obedience brings blessing.

So, in Isaiah 56:1-2 the Lord is pleading, commanding His people to live like His people.

Why? Because God is doing something so much bigger than Israel and He wants them to be part of it.

## II. God's blessing is for people from every nation. Isaiah 56:3-7

It is astounding when you read Isaiah and then go straight to the gospels...

That the scribes and the Pharisees and the elders of the Jews got so angry...  
when Jesus spoke of God's salvation going to the Gentiles.

When they knew Isaiah better than almost any book in their Scriptures...

And Isaiah is constantly speaking of the salvation of the nations. You cannot miss it.

Listen to what the Lord says in these verses, and you tell me what is on His heart. (vss. 3-8)

Who is it that the Lord wants to bless?

The foreigner, the eunuchs...

What is significant about these people?

They were the ones who were not allowed to come into the Temple to worship, the most excluded.

vs. 3 introduces what is coming. People thought of foreigners (Gentiles) as outside the people of God.

They thought of the eunuchs as barren and fruitless and outside the people of God.

But the Lord is inviting all peoples to come into His covenant blessing and be His.

vss. 4-5 The one who has no family and no possibility of family, who is a slave far from home.

The Lord is inviting him in, the one who others think the Lord would not save.

We find a fulfillment of this prophesy in **Acts 8:26-39**.

vss. 6-7 Who are "foreigners?" Illegal immigrants? No. Or yes! Certainly it includes them.

The Lord is here speaking of Babylonians, and Romans, and Germans, and Swedes, and Norwegians...

He is speaking of everyone who is not Jewish, who is not born into God's covenant people.

He is inviting all of us to be among His covenant people, to be adopted, to be grafted in.

We find more fulfillment of this prophesy in **Acts 10:1-5**, a vision, **10:17**, he goes, **10:25-48**.

Before His death Jesus came into the Temple and found something that made Him angry. **Mark 11:15-17**

Why was He so upset? Because the part that they had made into a market was the Court of the Gentiles.

The Jews rejected their Messiah and so He has invited you to come and believe. **Romans 11:17-23**

So, the Lord has invited you and I to become part of His covenant people...

heirs of His blessing, among His sheep, children of the Father, part of His kingdom.

But that is not all. You, if you have believed and are walking in obedience, are now part of His grand plan.

Part of the blessing of the Lord is that you get to have a part in His inviting others to come to Him.

God wants to use you to reach people all over the world who do not yet know any of this.

He wants to use you to speak to people in Beresford, Centerville, Alcester, Vermillion, Sioux Falls.

He wants you to have a part in reaching people in California and New York.

He wants you to have a part of seeking people in Haiti and Mexico and India and China

Are you investing yourself in God's worldwide plan to take the invitation to all peoples?

If you are not, you are ignoring the Lord's great commission and you are missing out on a great blessing.

I'm not talking about sending money somewhere, at least not without a relationship.

Our church supports a number of missionaries. Get to know one of them. Write a letter.

Ask if there is someone in the church there in Haiti or Japan or Congo, or India that you can write to.

Get to know someone in our community from another country. Invite them over. Invite them in.

Be intentional about understanding God's heart for all peoples.

## III. God's blessing is for His people whom He will gather. Isaiah 56:8

We are right now in the gathering time before the final gathering. Jesus is using you to invite people in.

We are in that time after the betrothal and before the wedding. Jesus is using you to invite people to His feast.

Tell people about Jesus. Love them so they will listen.

There are few blessings greater than seeing someone come into the kingdom.

*Six years ago we had a young guy from Germany in town, a foreign exchange student named Anton.*

*Hayride, Impact, trusted Christ as savior, grew, shared his testimony at a youth service on Sunday night.*

What a blessing it is to be a part of that! Who are you inviting to the feast?