

ISAIAH 58

- Vs. 1 God is calling for His “heralds” to go and get His people’s attention.
- Vs. 2 A people who talk the talk, who practice their religion to be seen by all.
- Vs. 3 A people who can’t believe that God is not impressed with them (they fear that God has not noticed their “act.”
- A people who separate their religious life from their everyday live a life. They had confused rituals with relationships and outward acts with inward reality.
- Vs. 4 You fast on Saturday for religious reasons and operate on a different basis the rest of the week. Deut 24:14-15; James 5:1-6
- Vs. 5-7 The following are the things that man does in hopes of receiving a positive response from God. (Maybe a positive response from people who see him?)

1. A man humbles himself.
2. Bows his head.
3. Makes a bed with sackcloth and ashes.
Outward acts of piety and not real “worship.” Rom. 12:1-2; Isa. 1:11-17;
James 1:22-27; 2:1-4

That which God is looking for--

If you will:

1. Loosens the bonds of wickedness.
2. Undoes the bands of the yoke.
Lets the oppressed go free.
Breaks every yoke.
3. Divide your bread with the hungry.
4. Bring the homeless poor into your house. Remember – Lk. 6:26-38
5. Cover the naked.
6. Don’t hide yourself from your own flesh. Deut. 22:1-4

Vs. 8 Then God will cause:

1. Your light will break out like the dawn. (See vs. 10) Mt. 5:14
2. Your recovery will spring forth. Jer. 30:10-17ff
3. Your righteousness will go before you. (Similar to Rev. 19:7-8)
4. The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Ex. 14:19-20

Vs. 9-12

5. You will call and the Lord will answer. (Does God always hear?)
6. You will cry and He will respond in a way that you would hope for.

If you will, then He will—

If:

1. Remove the yoke from your midst. (Refers back to vs. 6)
2. Stop pointing your finger.
3. Speaking wickedness. (Talking trash.)
4. Give yourself to the hungry. Deut. 15:7-11
5. Satisfy the desire of the afflicted.

Then:

1. Your light will rise in darkness.
2. Your gloom will disappear.
3. The Lord will continually guide you. (Is it a given that the Lord guides us?)
4. Satisfy your desire in scorched places. (You'll find yourselves in some.)
5. Give strength to your bones.
6. You will be like a watered garden.
7. Like an unfailing spring of water.
8. You will rebuild the ancient ruins.
Raise up old foundations.
Called a repairer of the breach.
Restorer of the streets.

Vs. 13 If you will honor my Sabbath the right way for the right reasons...

Vs. 14 Then:

1. You will take delight in the Lord.
2. I will make you high.
3. I will feed you.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.