

I. Introduction: God offers mercy to sinners. Mt. 11:28ff**II. Come to Christ and you will receive satisfaction and life. v. 1-5****A. Don't waste your life seeking what will never satisfy -- junk food. v. 2 Pr. 9:13ff**

1. The Jewish exiles in Babylon may have been tempted to continue to enjoy the easy life there rather than returning to the land. Ex. 14:3-4
2. Mankind tries to feed his soul with counterfeit "food" which leaves him empty. Ecc. 1:8 Deut. 8:3
 - a. Material wealth. Pr. 23:4-5 Ecc. 2:4-8 4:8 5:10 Ezek. 7:19
 - b. Substance abuse. 5:11-12 Ecc. 2:3 Pr. 20:1 31:4-5 23:21
 - c. Earthly pleasure and entertainment. Ecc. 2:1-2, 10-11 Pr. 21:17
 - d. Food. Pr. 23:20-21 Phil. 3:19
 - e. Sensuality. 2 Sam. 11:1ff Pr. 2:16-19 5:8-14 6:24-35 7:22-27 Ezek. 16:28-29
 - f. Friendship and popularity. Ecc. 7:28-29 Jer. 17:5-6
 - g. Worldly accomplishments. Ecc. 2:9-11,22-23
 - h. Human wisdom and education. Ecc. 2:12-17
3. Seeking from earthly things what God alone can give is idolatry. Jer. 2:13 17:5-6 II Ti. 3:4 Phil. 3:19
4. A sad picture of lost humanity spending all its money and time chasing what they will never find. Ps. 90:12
5. God alone can offer you what is good and bring you everlasting delight. v. 2b 58:11,14 Jer. 17:7-8 Ps. 34:8 17:15 63:5 65:4 103:15 90:14 37:4,11
6. Recognition of this principle is the key to overcoming slavery to sin (addiction).

B. The LORD offers you a rich banquet. v. 1 Pr. 9:1-6 Matt. 22:1-14

1. God doesn't merely tell you to quit your pet sin, but rather He offers you something much better.
2. Water to satisfy your thirst. 5:13 41:17 44:3 49:10 58:11 Ps. 42:1-2 63:1 Am. 8:11
3. Wine to make your heart glad. 16:10 Ps. 104:14-15
4. Milk to nourish you. Ex. 3:8,17 Deut. 32:14 Jer. 11:5 I Pe. 2:2
5. A reminder of the Exodus. 48:21 Ex. 17:3-7 3:8,17 Ne. 9:15 Ps. 105:40 I Co. 10:4
6. This promise is fulfilled in type in the return from exile. 49:10 7:22 44:3 35:6-7 43:20 41:17-20 58:11 Eze. 34:26 Joel 3:18 2:19,26
7. What is the food and drink we need? v. 10-11 Deut. 8:3
8. The fulfillment comes in Christ. John 4:13-15 7:37-38 6:35,47-51 Col. 2:3,9-10 Zech. 14:9-10 I Co. 10:4-5
9. We await the culmination at the final heavenly banquet. Rev. 7:16 21:6 22:17

C. The banquet of God's blessings is offered to you freely. v. 1

1. The only condition is that you would recognize your need and come. Mt. 5:6 John 7:38-39 Ps. 143:6 Deut. 8:3
2. Someone else has paid for this feast. Isa. 53:4-6,11
3. If you try to pay, you cannot partake! 64:6 Phil. 3:9 II Co. 8:9 Ro. 11:6
4. Christ freely invites all to come to Him. Mt. 11:28ff Jo. 7:38-39 3:16 Lu. 14:16-24

D. If you will heed God's call, you will enjoy His covenant mercies. v. 3-5 Eze. 37:24-28

1. You will participate in the everlasting promises and blessings given to David. v. 3-4 42:1ff 29:2ff Jer. 32:40 II Sam. 7:8-16 John 18
2. Through Him the nations are drawn to God. v. 5 9:7 49:7 45:22 2:1-5 60:9 Ps. 18:43 Zech. 8:22

III. Call upon the LORD to receive pardon and blessing. v. 6-13

A. Quickly call upon the LORD. v. 6-7 45:22

1. Seek Him before it is too late. v. 6a 58:2 Mt. 7:7 Ps. 34:10 10:4 14:2 32:6
2. Call upon Him (faith). v. 6b Ro. 10:13,8 Gen. 13:4
3. Turn from your sin (repent). v. 7a 66:18 I Th. 1:9 Pr. 4:23 Ge. 6:5 Mk. 7:21ff
4. The LORD is compassionate and forgiving. v. 7b 1:18 30:18 Ex. 34:9 Je. 31:34
5. The basis of God's mercy is the work of Christ. Isa. 53:10,12 Pr. 25:21

B. God's thoughts and ways are beyond your thoughts and ways. v. 8-9

1. We need to repent of our wicked ways and thoughts and submit to God's holy ways and thoughts. v. 7a Ps. 103:11 Gen. 6:5
2. How can you know God's ways? Ro. 10:17 Deut. 8:3 John 1:1ff Col. 2:3ff

C. God reveals and achieves His sovereign purposes by means of His Word. v. 10-11 45:23 42:9 46:8-11 Ps. 115:3 107:20

1. The Word is sent forth to bear fruit by turning man from the folly of his sinful ways and thoughts to the thoughts and ways of God. v. 10 I Co. 3:7 Deut. 8:3
2. The Word sometimes is used by God to condemn the wicked. 6:8-10 John 12:48
3. God's Word perfectly accomplishes all for which He sent it. v. 11 46:8-11
4. God's Word is infallible and mighty! v. 8-9 II Ti. 3:16-17 He. 4:12 Jer. 23:29-32
5. The mystery of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. v. 1-7 Jo. 6:37,44
6. As we proclaim God's Word, we expect to see fruit.

D. If you heed God's Word you will experience perfect joy and peace in His new creation. v. 12-13 54:10

1. God's purpose will be established in His future eschatological kingdom.
2. A new joyful Exodus. v. 12a 51:11 52:10-12 43:16f Ex. 14:22 Jo. 3:16 Ps. 114:1-6
3. A procession of peace. v. 12b 9:6-7 11:6-9 53:5 54:10 Ps. 45:15-16
4. A new creation. v. 13a 41:19 Rom. 8:19-21 Gen. 3:18
5. An everlasting memorial to the LORD.

IV. Concluding applications: Are you hungry and thirsty?

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What do the water, wine, and milk symbolize? v. 1
2. In what sense do people spend for what does not satisfy? v. 2
3. What is the condition of enjoying the spiritual feast God offers? v. 1b
4. In what way is the covenant to David fulfilled? v. 3-5
5. Why is it urgent that you seek God now? v. 6
6. How do verses 6-7 portray repentance and faith?
7. On what basis does God pardon you? v. 7b
8. How are God's thoughts and ways different from ours? v. 8-9
9. How can you know God's thoughts and ways? v. 10-11
10. What is the effect of the Word of God? v. 10-11
11. What past, present, and future blessings are portrayed in verses 12-13?
12. How would you use this passage in evangelism?
13. How would you use this text to help a believer who is downcast or struggling with sin?