

The Abundance of God vs. The Abundance of the World, Isaiah 55

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. Is. 55:2

Promises, Promises.

- What has God promised us?
• _____
- What is abundance?
• _____
- Do we (you) live in that abundance?
• _____
- What is missing?
• _____

Here's what God says.

- 55:1-4: To everyone: _____

- 55:5: To Israel: _____

- 55:6-7: To sinners: _____

- 55:8-9: To us, who don't always understand God: _____

- 55:10-11: To those who question God's sovereignty: _____

- 55:12-13: To the faithful: _____

Understanding "abundance."

The world's "abundance."

- **Possessions:** _____

- **Power:** _____

- What was the first sin? _____

- What was its goal? _____
- What did mankind gain from it? _____
- From a non-spiritual point of view, what has more influence over our decisions, possessions or power? _____
- Examples of the "power of power."
• _____
• _____
• _____

God's abundance.

- John 7:37-52: What did the Pharisees fear? _____

- Matt. 15:37: What happens when there is enough to go around? _____

- Matt. 6:19-21: The abundance of the world includes an abundance of fear, resentment, and jealousy. _____
- Matt. 6:33: So, what is the ultimate result of God's abundance?

So, where is the disconnect between God's abundance and our behavior?

- **Naming your enemy.**
 - Possessions? _____
 - Power? _____
 - Grudges and resentments? _____
 - Pride? _____
- **The toxicity of grudges, resentment, jealousy, and envy in all cultural settings:** _____

For a damned soul is nearly nothing: it is shrunk, shut up in itself. Good beats upon the damned incessantly as sound waves beat on the ears of the deaf, but they cannot receive it. Their fists are clenched, their teeth are clenched, their eyes fast shut. First they will not, in the end they cannot, open their hands for gifts, or their mouth for food, or their eyes to see.

C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce