



Sermon Growth Guide

December 11, 2022

The Great Rescue – The Promise

Isaiah 25:1-9

Key Verse: Isaiah 25:6 “On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.”

Big Idea: Because Jesus has swallowed up death, we can celebrate life with great joy.

Foundations

Isaiah, like all the prophets, describes the idolatry of the people of God. Instead of worshiping the God of glory, they have turned to worshiping human endeavors and abilities. They have put their trust in created things rather than in the Creator. The result is that God’s beautiful and abundant world has been turned into a wasteland.

Believing the promises of humanity is risky. There are limits to human vision, to human capabilities and, most especially, to human care for those to whom promises are made. Expecting human promises to be kept often leads to disappointment and even despair.

According to Isaiah, though, God’s people did expect the promise of human ambition and power to give good results. That did not happen. It would be understandable if God had just washed His hands of His creation, but He did not...He does not. In soaring poetry, Isaiah describes a God who is faithful and trustworthy.

The promise of God is that in God’s New Creation, all the devastating effects of trusting the wrong things will be wiped away. That would be enough. But it is not enough for God. He also invites us to a magnificent feast so that we may celebrate His faithful goodness to us.

Understanding God’s Word

We often feel deeply the disconnect between what God has promised and the daily reality of our lives. Isaiah is clear that this is because of our misplaced trust. But he is equally clear that proper trust in the God of Promise leads to celebratory joy. He says in Isaiah 25:9: *Surely this is our God; we trusted Him, and He saved us. This is the Lord. We trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in our salvation.*

In this verse, we also see the role of worship in pointing us to our trustworthy God. In what ways have you experienced worship that leads you to trust God in the particulars of your life?

Applying God’s Word

In 1968, Dionne Warwick sang, “...Their kind of promises can just destroy a life; those kind of promises take all the joy from life...”

How have you seen trust in things that are not of God that take away life and joy? Describe a time when trusting God led to great joy.

Witnessing God’s Word

Because the God of Promise has intervened in our lives, we can tell the ‘nations’—the world, our neighbors—that God is worthy of trust. In what ways can the conduct of our lives reveal the defeat of death and invite others to the feast?