

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 275 – Cry Aloud Through The Lord Hath Spoken It (Isaiah 58:1-14)

1. Did God want His messenger(s) to quietly deal with the sins of His people?

No: *“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1).*

- Cry aloud, spare not (**Psalms 40:9-10, Psalms 119:13, Proverbs 27:5-6, Jeremiah 1:4-10, II Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:10-14, and Titus 2:15; cf. Proverbs 25:12**).
- Shew my people their transgression (**Ezekiel 3:17-22, Ezekiel 16:2, Ezekiel 43:10, Micah 3:8, Matthew 3:1-12, Acts 20:20-27, and James 5:19-20**).

2. At this point in time, was Israel’s service to God genuine?

No: *“(2) Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. (3) Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. (4) Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. (5) Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? (6) Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? (7) Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh” (Isaiah 58:2-7)?*

- They put on a daily show (**Deuteronomy 5:28-29, Isaiah 29:13, Isaiah 48:1-2, Ezekiel 33:30-33, and Titus 1:16**).
- They ignorantly wondered why God didn’t see their fasting and afflictions, but failed to see that their purpose behind those actions were wrong. Thus, God didn’t see or hear them (**Proverbs 21:27, Isaiah 1:10-20, Matthew 6:16, and Matthew 23:14**).
- Such actions have to be for the Lord (**Zechariah 7:5-6**) at His time and place of choosing (**Psalms 69:13**).
- If they wanted to do it right they should have afflicted their souls (**Nehemiah 9:1-3**).
- If they wanted to do it right, they should have done things such as setting free their servants (**Deuteronomy 15:12-15**) and helping the poor (**Proverbs 28:27**).
*More on this in verses 10-11.

3. If they started serving God acceptably, would they have righteousness before them?
 Yes: *"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward"* (Isaiah 58:8).
- **Psalms 85:8-13, Jeremiah 3:22, and Hosea 14:1-4.**
4. If they corrected themselves would God hear their cries?
 Yes: *"Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity"* (Isaiah 58:9).
- **II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 28:13, Isaiah 59:20, Jeremiah 29:10-15, Ezekiel 33:14-16, and I John 1:9.**
5. What did they need to do to rise in obscurity and have God return as their guide?
 Help the hungry and afflicted: *"(10) And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: (11) And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not"* (Isaiah 58:10-11).
- If they would help the truly needy (**Deuteronomy 15:7, Proverbs 14:31, Proverbs 21:13, Matthew 25:31-46, and James 2:14-17**)...
 - God as their guide (**Psalms 41:1 and Psalms 48:14**; cf. **Psalms 37:6**).
6. Was Israel going to be capable of restoring the old places that were laid waste?
 Yes: *"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in"* (Isaiah 58:12).
- **Nehemiah 2:17-18, Ezekiel 26:4-8, and Amos 9:14-15.**
7. What did they need to do to delight themselves in the Lord?
 Stop doing their own will: *"(13) If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: (14) Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it"* (Isaiah 58:13-14).
- Cease from own ways (**Isaiah 66:3**) to doing it His way (**Deuteronomy 5:12**).
 - Cease their own words and ways (**Deuteronomy 12:32 and Proverbs 23:4**).
 - "For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (**Psalms 119:89 and Isaiah 46:9-10**).