

Isaiah 58

The Fast Ordained by God

Isaiah 58:1

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet;
Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

Isaiah 58:2-3

Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My
ways,

As a nation that did righteousness, And did not
forsake the ordinance of their God.

They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They
take delight in approaching God.

Why have we fasted,' *they say*, 'and You have
not seen?

Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take
no notice?'

Isaiah 58:2-3 NLT

Yet they act so pious!

They come to the Temple every day and seem
delighted to learn all about me.

They act like a righteous nation that would never
abandon the laws of its God.

They ask me to take action on their
behalf, pretending they want to be near me.

‘We have fasted before you!’ they say.

‘Why aren’t you impressed?

We have been very hard on ourselves,
and you don’t even notice it!’

Isaiah 58:3b-4

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,
And exploit all your laborers.
Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to
strike with the fist of wickedness.
You will not fast as *you do* this day, To make your
voice heard on high.

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive because you ask
amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Isaiah 58:5

Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to
afflict his soul?

Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to
spread out sackcloth and ashes?

Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day
to the LORD?

What do we do?

What will be the result?

Isaiah 58:6-7

Is this not the fast I have chosen:

- To loose the bonds of wickedness
- To undo the heavy burdens
- To let the oppressed go free
- And that you break every yoke?
- Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
- And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out
- When you see the naked, that you cover him,
- And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

What do we do?

Consider others needs more valuable
than our own

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Isaiah 58:8-9a

Then your light shall break forth like the morning,
Your healing shall spring forth speedily,
And your righteousness shall go before you;
The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I *am*.'

What do we do?

Consider others needs more valuable
than our own

What will be the result?

God will be visible in your life

Isaiah 58:9b-10

- If you take away the yoke from your midst
- The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness
- If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul

What do we do?

Be messengers and instruments of forgiveness

What will be the result?

Colossians 3:12-15

Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful

Isaiah 58:10b-12

Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall *be* as the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

What do we do?

Be messengers and instruments of
forgiveness

What will be the result?

Growth and Restoration

Ephesians 4:11-13

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:14-16

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Isaiah 58:13

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,
From doing your pleasure on My holy day,
And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of
the LORD honorable,
And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,
Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking
your own words,

What do we do?

Honor God

What will be the result?

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Isaiah 58:14

Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;
And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of
the earth,
And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your
father.
The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Genesis 27:28-29

Therefore may God give you
Of the dew of heaven,
Of the fatness of the earth,
And plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you.

Be master over your brethren,
And let your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed *be* everyone who curses you,
And blessed *be* those who bless you!”

Genesis 28:13-15

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

What do we do?

Honor God

What will be the result?

Blessing

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Hebrews 11:13,21

- These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff

The fast God has ordained

- Consider others needs more valuable than your own and see Him move in your life
- Be messengers and instruments of forgiveness and watch your life grow and be restored
- Honor God and be blessed