

Have You Found the Lord?

Isaiah 55:6-7 (NIV)

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Church of Christ, Brookfield
Sermon Outline
Sunday, July 12, 2015

Have You Found the Lord?

Isaiah 55:6–7 (NIV)

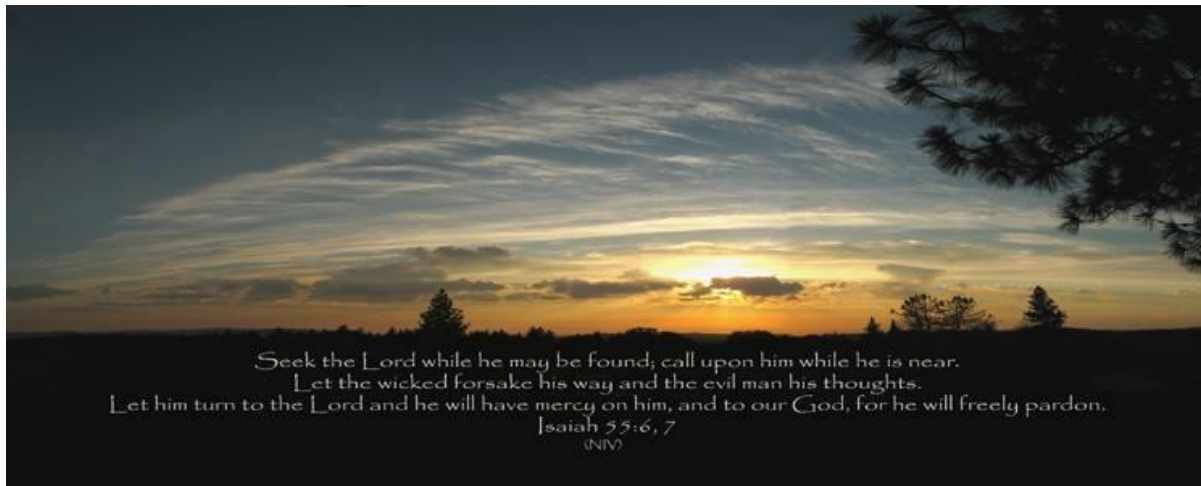
⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Thesis:

God can be found, if you are looking.



Objectives:

- I. When can the Lord be found?
- II. Change is needed to secure the Lord
- III. Change brings mercy and pardon

Please help:

After listening to this sermon lesson suggested questions that can be asked from the content of the lesson.

Go to www.barryjohnsonsr.com and click on the tab that says “Forms & Surveys” and type in as many questions you can think of. Your questions may go into an ebook that will be available online at the conclusion of the third quarter sermons that Tony and I preach. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Please note:

To date we have received increased participation to our Facebook page and our website. On the back of the bulletin I will report to you weekly how those media outlets are doing. You can assist by going to these outlets weekly and encourage family, friends and co-workers to do the same.

You are Encouraged:

Our evening assembly begins a new series of lessons that are to encourage and equip you to share your faith. The lessons are entitled “Making Evangelism Personal”. Dan Drozd kicks it off with “The Laborers are Few” from Luke 10:2. Please attend and help create an atmosphere of Evangelism in this congregation. See you at 5:00pm tonight.

Introduction:

Some interesting words from the verses of our text...



How Do You Measure It?

The astronomer measures time by light-years, the geologist by vast cycles, the historian by epics and centuries, the industrialist by the fiscal year, the salaried person by the month, the laborer by the weekly paycheck, the child by the birthday party. But for most of us the common measure of time begins with the awkward motions of rising in the morning and the weary movements at night. In this dimension we determine our day. While the vast majority of the hours are predetermined, planned for us, we nevertheless have precious tidbits of time which we are free to use and which ultimately determine the quality of our character and the degree of our commitment. The Lord measures time in terms of responsible living.¹

How will we spend our time? What is important to us? Will we call upon the Lord while He may be found? You might want to consider that your best opportunity to be a child of

¹ Jones, G. C. (1986). *1000 illustrations for preaching and teaching* (pp. 346–347). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

God is right now. Your life has been set up to confront you with the Lord of glory. Our maker is not lost and uncaring, He is apparent, relevant and close by to forgive and redeem.

Sermon Outline:

I. When can the Lord be found?

- A. When one seeks the Lord can be found...
- B. Dir-su = To try to get or reach something one desires; to seek with care; care for; to inquire about; to investigate; to be intent on; ...

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NIV)

²⁹ But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

2 Chronicles 15:2 (NIV)

² He went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.

Isaiah 9:13 (NIV)

¹³ But the people have not returned to him who struck them, nor have they sought the LORD Almighty.

- C. The Lord can be found if you are looking. Most times we are not concerned about God because we are consumed with ourselves. That is why things happen in our lives to make God apparent.

Acts 17:27 (NIV)

²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

- D. When one calls the Lord can be found...
- E. Q ra u = call on = to have recourse (*a person or thing resorted to for protection*) to or make an appeal or request for help or information to

Psalms 50:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

Isaiah 65:24 (NIV)

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

Jeremiah 29:12 (NIV)

¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

³ ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

F. The Lord has His ways to cause us to seek and call upon Him.

G. For Israel and Judah it was the impending destruction of the nation and captivity.

H. What is it for us today?

II. Change/ Repentance is needed to secure the Lord

A. Forsake wicked ways

B. It is a given that we are the ones lost not God. Our ways need to change in order that the Lord might be found.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 30:9 (NIV)

⁹ If you return to the LORD, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him.”

Ezekiel 18:27–28 (NIV)

²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die.

C. It is man who must repent, it is man who must change.

D. Forsake unrighteous thoughts

Isaiah 32:7 (NIV)

⁷ Scoundrels use wicked methods, they make up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just.

Isaiah 59:7 (NIV)

⁷ Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV)

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

E. Not only do our ways need to change but our very thoughts need to change as well. As a man thinks in his heart so is he, the scripture warns us.

III. Change brings mercy and pardon

A. Men must always change when coming to God.

Isaiah 44:22 (NIV)

²² I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”

Jeremiah 26:3 (NIV)

³ Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from their evil ways. Then I will relent and not inflict on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done.

Ezekiel 18:32 (NIV)

³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

B. Repent and receive mercy for God loves us

Isaiah 54:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

C. Repent and receive pardon, forgiveness is so close.

2 Chronicles 6:21 (NIV)

²¹ Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 40:2 (NIV)

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

D. Our sins have been paid for as well, now we must turn to God for pardon.

Conclusion

- When can the Lord be found? If you are looking for Him He can be found. Your life and its circumstances are the result of a pattern that should lead you to God.
- Change is needed to secure the Lord. Without repentance God cannot be pleased. Without you changing, you will remain lost. Repent and live, accept His commands by obeying them. There is something required of you in regards to your salvation. Do not believe the world that there is nothing you can do.
- Change brings mercy and pardon; it brings salvation close at hand.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)

²For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from **hearing** the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 13:3 (NIV)

³I tell you, no! But unless you **repent**, you too will all perish.

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV)

⁹If you **declare** with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you **profess** your faith and are saved.

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be **baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be **faithful**, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

