

Isaiah 55:8-13
He is Greater

His thoughts are higher (8-9)

We think differently – ***we do not have the capacity to process information like He does***

Limited knowledge (I Corinthians 13:11-12 / Psalm 147:4-5)

We see so little compared to an omniscient God who see all

Laced with corruption (Ephesians 4:18 / Colossians 2:2-4, 8)

Our motives are not even clear to ourselves (I Corinthians 4:4)

Way of God is higher – ***He always has eternity in view***

For a greater purpose (Romans 8:28-29 / II Corinthians 1:8-11)

Even intense suffering – to make us dependent upon Him

From a greater perspective (Deuteronomy 29:29 / John 9:1-3)

Not choice A or B, but to bring glory to God

His Word is greater (10-11) – ***it will accomplish the purpose for which He sent it***

Water of the Word (Ephesians 5:26 / Romans 12:2)

Able to cleanse us and transform our lives

Word from His mouth (II Timothy 3:16 / Hebrews 4:12)

A sharp two-edged sword revealing the attitudes of our hearts

Will of God accomplished (Job 42:2 / Isaiah 46:10) – ***man cannot change God's plans***

Power to create (Genesis 1:3)

The word He speaks creates something out of nothing (Hebrews 11:3)

Power to change lives (Romans 1:16; 10:17)

Our salvation and our faith accomplished by the power of His Word

Power to judge (John 12:48)

When you hear His Word you are held accountable (II Peter 2:21)

His plan is better (12-13) – ***Father knows best!***

Encouraging (Romans 15:4 / John 11:11-14)

Written for our encouragement. How many are lives impacted by hard things?

Enriching (John 1:16-17 / Philippians 3:7-9)

His plan brings untold blessings, His offerings are so much greater.

Everlasting (I Corinthians 2:9-10)

The wonderful things God has in store for those who are His.

Discussion questions for Isaiah 55:8-13

Why is it foolish of us to ignore what God's Word teaches us? (Psalm 119:9-11 / John 5:39-40 / I Corinthians 10:8, 11-12 / II Timothy 4:3-4) ***His Word can keep us from sin, helping us to live a pure life. His Word points us to Jesus where we can find salvation and strength. His Word warns us about the results of following examples of those who reject His way. His Word keeps us from being seduced by false prophets.***

What results when people turn away from His Word? (Matthew 7:26-27 / Psalm 119:21 / Romans 1:21-23 / contrast Revelation 3:8-10) ***The find themselves building their lives on the sand, unable to face the conflict ahead. They are under the curse and wrath of God (John 3:36) and even their thinking becomes darkened. Their lives go deeper and deeper into sin until they are destroyed. But those who cling to His name and His word find their strength in God and He promises to keep them to the end.***

How can you invest yourself in growing in God's word? Do you? (Deuteronomy 17:18-20 / Psalm 1:3 / Psalm 119:11 / II Timothy 2:15 / Acts 17:11) ***Reading His Word daily to gain perspective and to grow in our knowledge of Him. Meditating on His Word day and night so that His thoughts become my thoughts. Memorizing His Word to arm myself for the battles against sin. Studying His Word so that I may become a workman who is not ashamed and who correctly handles His Word. And listening eagerly to good teaching but testing everything I learn against Scripture.***

How can we discover God's will and purpose for our lives? (Matthew 28:18-19 / I Thessalonians 4:3; 5:16-18 / I Timothy 2:3-4 & II Peter 3:9 / I Peter 2:15 / Proverbs 15:22 / Isaiah 7:9; 8:20 / Romans 12:1-2) ***It begins by being obedient to those things that are God's will for all His children: to share the gospel; to be set apart for God; to give thanks in all things; to pray for others that they would be saved; and to live in obedience to those in authority. It is important to seek godly counsel and to search the teaching and principles of His Word. Surrendering myself to be God's servant. Having my mind renewed by His Word that I would no longer conform to this world. Growing deep in my relationship with Jesus so that He is the one directing my thought and actions. (Proverbs 3:5-6)***

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