

## *Divine Dinning*

### **Isaiah 55:1-2**

**“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.”**

Why pay good money for a piece of dry, moldy sausage when you can have a full course dinner with a filet mignon, for free. That is a kind of modern paraphrase of our text. Except, this reading is not about physical eating at all. The Israelites had been chasing after false gods and these idols weren't able to provide anything that would satisfy the people's spiritual needs. However, it was costing them dearly in many different ways.

The word “come” is a cry arousing attention or expressing pity. It is like saying “attention everyone.” God intends give a free and sovereign gift. This verse is a most urgent plea to accept freely all the good gifts that God has now in readiness for his own. This is almost an imperative, but also a kind invitation. This as such shows us the nature of God, which is in itself a healing and satisfying nature, finding expression in the incarnation and redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is love – all things are now ready – come the banquet is open to us all.

The thirst is spiritual. Thirsting differs from hungering in this – the hungering man will quietly lie down and die; the thirsting man will spend himself in mad striving. This invitation goes out to all who are spiritually dehydrated and starving. In every generation life apart from God proves unsatisfying.

In this world you get what you pay for. Everything in the world costs something, must be paid for in money or labor, or in some act representing compensation for value received. The price here is the suffering and death of Jesus. This merchant offers staples at no cost, because the Suffering Servant has already paid the price (cf Is 53:11–12). (TLSB)

Wine and milk are symbols of abundance, enjoyment and nourishment. Wine and milk are figurative representatives of spiritual revival, re-creation and nourishment. These terms stand as symbols of impending salvation.

To receive this without money means that some has paid everything in full. Who would ever “sell” anything so precious for free? This is revolutionary. Yahweh is no ordinary shopkeeper. His submissive Servant paid everything.

The first part of verse two describes the husks of pagan religious practices. These left them unfulfilled. The second half of verse two reiterates Jesus' invitation: “Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures to eternal life” (Jn. 6:27). He goes on to promise: I am the bread of life. The one of who comes to me will never hunger, and the one who believes in me will never thirst” (Jn. 6:35).

By our listening and reading to God's Word and tasting Jesus' body and blood in the Sacrament we receive the ultimate banquet of fine food. All of it is paid for by Jesus suffering, death and resurrection.

Prayer: Lord God, thank you for offering the greatest feast ever for our spiritual well being. Thank you Lord Jesus for paying for it all with your life. Amen