

“EXPLOITED”
RESTORE IN ‘24
ISAIAH 58:1-5 - Jan 28, 2024
180 Church – Pastor Harlyn

ISAIAH OVERVIEW:

Chapters 1-39: Pre-Babylon Exile

Chapters 40-66: 150 year jump, post-exile and after Isaiah’s death

Isaiah 58:1 “Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.”

Isaiah 58:2 “For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.”

Isaiah 58:3 “Why have we fasted,” they say, “and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?”

Isaiah 58:4 “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists.”

Isaiah 58:5 “Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, **a day acceptable to the LORD??**

Psalms 112:1 “Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in His commands.”

Psalms 119:165 “Great peace have those who delight in your law, and nothing can make them stumble.”

Psalms 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalms 147:11 “The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.”

Psalms 149:4 “For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with victory.”

Zephaniah 3:17 “The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves you. He will take great delight in you: in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but He will rejoice over you with singing.”

LOOK IN:

1. How does God get your attention?

2. What practices in your life might be trending towards an empty, exploitative expression of religion devoid of delight and life? Even a small deviation can make a huge difference over time.
3. How do you feel about the prospect of God examining you, questioning your motives and approach towards Him? Is your first instinct to trust Him and welcome that? Why or why not?
4. Do you believe God truly delights in you? Why or why not?
5. When was the last time you genuinely delighted in God's presence?