

When we listen we live because we hear a Word about Jesus whose body was broken and whose blood was shed to so that our cup would overflow and goodness and mercy would follow us all the days of our lives and we would dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Satisfaction is centered in Christ.

The gift is **righteousness**. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:6)

Ultimately this text is about God’s compassion and God’s provision. Jesus fed so many people and yet there was no shortage. His giving never runs out. God’s giving satisfied because with God there are always **leftovers**.

What is it or Who is it that truly satisfied? Where else would you rather be than right here, right now? By virtue of what the Lord does to us, in us and for us in the Divine Service we are satisfied. We come hungry, thirsty and burdened. We leave fed, refreshed and forgiven. When it comes to God’s grace there are always leftovers. Come and be satisfied. Amen.

An invitation to Satisfaction, August 2, 2020, Isaiah 55:1 – 5, Matthew 14:20

Isaiah 55:2-3 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. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; Matthew 14:20 And they all ate and were **satisfied**. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

Don’t some of the artificial lures fisherman use look phony. It surprises me that fish would fall for them. They are shiny, metallic, gaudy plastic, hot pink and neon colors, in stripes and spots.

What **lures** does Satan use in our lives to convince us that we can find satisfaction and life somewhere other than in God and what He offers in Christ. Isn’t it amazing that we fall for his temptations even though they are deadly?

.Philip Parham tells the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat. “Why aren’t you out there fishing?” he asked.

“Because I’ve caught enough fish for today,” said the fisherman.

“Why don’t you catch more fish than you need?” the rich man asked.

“What would I do with them?”

“You could earn more money,” came the impatient reply, “and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish, and make more money. Soon you’d have a fleet of boats and be rich like me.”

The fisherman asked, “Then what would I do?”

“You could sit down and enjoy life,” said the industrialist. “What do you think I’m doing now?” the fisherman. Our Daily Bread, May 18, 1994

How much is enough? How much do we need? **Dissatisfaction** was the first sin. Adam and Eve had perfection in the Garden of Eden but even that wasn’t enough. We get what we want for Christmas or our birthday but how long are we satisfied? We ask our parents to stay up just five more minutes or just one more quick game but when that is

over we want just five more etc. Yes, one of our sins is we are never satisfied. We always want more.

So if you got an invitation for satisfaction where satisfaction was guaranteed would you accept the invitation?

Satisfaction doesn't depend on your **situation**. Isaiah is writing to God's people in captivity in Babylon. They are without land, Jerusalem, the temple and sacrifices. In the midst of this destruction and devastation God extends an invitation to satisfaction.

Paul wrote in Philippians 4, I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. He wrote those from prison.

Satisfaction doesn't depend on your situation or what you **possess**. In the movie Cool Runnings, John Candy coaches a Jamaican Bobsled team. As coach he had won a gold medal for the U.S. but he did so breaking the rules. In the movie he says, "I learned something, If you are not happy without a gold medal, you won't be happy with it." What do you have to have in order to be happy or content?

John tells us that after feeding the 5,000 Jesus withdrew because they only wanted him as a miracle worker not as a Savior. Like them, we may follow our Lord, as long as the end result is to our liking or as long as we get what we want. When we don't, we aren't satisfied so we set out to find another god. This new god has no answer to sin and death. This new god leaves us hungry and thirsty, our cup is empty and we are without contentment.

Satisfaction is **impossible** if you look in the wrong place. God asks, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? God's people to whom Isaiah is writing had looked to their labor, to idols of wood and stone, to chasing after their lusts and desires. Their choices not only didn't satisfy they led to their downfall and their captivity.

Why do we have such a problem with credit card debt? Why do we put in so many hours? Why do we buy so much stuff? Are we looking for contentment in all the wrong places? Are we looking for something that only God can provide and has provided in Christ?

Contentment is possible despite our **limitations**. Jesus showed the disciples their limitations. Jesus said, "You feed them." They said, "We only have five loaves and two fish." The words, "We only have" implies it can't be done. No way. Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy" when called to be a prophet. The temptation is to focus on our abilities, our weaknesses, etc.

The **source** of the invitation is God. He is the One who had the crowd stay. He is the One Who says four times in our text, "Come."

The **recipients** of the invitation are those with limited resources and in desperate situations. The invitations is extended to everyone who thirsts. It is there for the woman at the well, for the woman caught in adultery, for the lepers, for the blind, for the tax collector and for those in captivity.

All of this make clear that satisfaction is a **gift**. Come, you who have no money come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Let me assure you that the price is right.

The Hebrew word translated money could perhaps be better translated silver. I couldn't help but think of the meaning to the 2nd article. "Who has redeemed you not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death."

The gift is **paid for**. The cost was paid by the One Who laid down His life for us.

God says, Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, let your soul delight in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live."

Sermon - An invitation to Satisfaction

Text – Isaiah 55:2 – 3, Matthew 14:20

- I. What lures does Satan use in our lives?
- II. Dissatisfaction was the first sin
- III. Satisfaction doesn't depend on your situation
- IV. Satisfaction doesn't depend on what you possess
- V. Satisfaction is impossible
- VI. Satisfaction is possible despite our limitations
- VII. The source of the invitation
- VIII. The recipients
- IX. Satisfaction is a gift
 - A. It is paid for
 - B. It is righteousness
- X. With God there are always leftovers