

Sermon Supplement from December 31

Seek the Lord | Isaiah 55:1-7

Reflection/Discussion

- For what reasons can some people today find themselves cut off from God?
- How had the people in the day of Isaiah drifted away from God?
- How does the picture of God's attitude toward people in these verses surprise us?

Thinking About the Text

- What is highly appealing about God's offer in verse 1? Why might this be such a difficult offer for many to receive?
- If you were to share this offer with someone else, for what reasons would you encourage them to take God up on it besides those found in verse 2-4?
- What promise does God make to those who seek Him in verse 7? How does the wording of verse 7 show that God's interest is more in blessing us spiritually than materially? Can it also include material blessing?

Application

- What teachings are there in the Bible that show us that not everybody who seeks God finds Him (e.g. Acts 8:20; Luke 13:24; Prov. 14:12)? Why or why not?
- How have your actions shown others that you have accepted God's offer in these verses? What is so hard about the condition laid before us by God in verse 7?
- In what ways do you regularly stop and "listen" (vss. 2b, 3a) to God? Can you think of some ways of listening to God that many people have not yet discovered?
- Who in my life needs to hear this divine invitation? How will that happen?