

Call Upon Him While He is Near

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

I. Seek the Lord ...

- A. It is YOUR duty to seek after God – because the One who gave you life commands it.
 - 1. If we will incur the favor of God and his friendship we must seek it – He will not force himself upon us. We must show ourselves friendly to Him.
- B. We are naturally ignorant of the ways of God, so He commands us to seek after Him.
- C. Because God and his ways are so misrepresented in this crooked and perverse world, we must seek diligently to find Him.
- D. You MUST COME to God – He is not going to drag you into the Kingdom.
 - 1. You MUST STOP your apathy and your unconcern for your soul and set about trying to right what is wrong.
 - 2. You MUST separate from the world and its cares, its attractions, its amusements and focus your mind on God.
- E. There must be great reward and value in finding the Lord – that is why He urges us to seek Him.

II. While He may be found ...

- A. This implies plainly that He will not always be near enough for you to find Him.
- B. It implies there is a time when you must seek Him or be lost.
- C. It implies that if you don't seek Him while He is near there will be a time when you will seek Him and not be able to find Him.

Jeremiah 14:11-12 Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Ezek. 8:18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Mic. 3:4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Zech. 7:13 Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

- D. He may be found when:
 - 1. The preaching of the Word of God is borne to our conscience with power.
 - 2. When death comes into our inner circle of family or friends and we are sobered to its reality, and to the fact that this life will end for us also.

3. When your health is taken away and you are deprived of the ability to indulge yourself in this world's pleasures.
4. A saved friend or loved one is pleading with you to be saved.

III. You may think you are staying near and you can call anytime you get ready.

- A. Most people think that they aren't so far from God, but they are much farther from Him than they think.
- B. They think He is just a prayer away and so they don't fear.
- C. They think He will come in *their* own good time, and only when *they* beckon.
- D. You put space between you and God gradually when you are in this state – until it becomes a great gulf.
 1. Just like the child that becomes lost in the woods – it happens gradually.
- E. There will come a day when it will dark in your world and you will look with longing eyes back on the time He was near and you refused to call upon Him.

IV. How guilty will the sinner who fails to call upon God be when judgment time comes!

- A. How foolish it is to let the moment of opportunity pass knowing that there might not be another.
- B. God makes Himself known and you know the opportunity is available NOW, but you refuse it.
 1. Surely such a person is worthy of Hell and all the universe will be in agreement with God when they are cast into the lake of fire at the Great White Throne Judgment.
 2. If a man won't ASK, then he deserves to go to Hell.
- C. God does not require anything of us that is impossible for us to comply with.
 1. He only requires that you "call upon him, while He is near."

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
7Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Heb. 3:7-8 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (4 times in the Bible)