

**The Gracious Invitation:  
Isaiah 55:1-56:2**

AFTER THE GENERAL STATEMENT in chapter 54 of the outreach of the results of the sacrifice performed by the Lord's Servant, the first part of chapter 55 deals specifically with these results as they relate to individuals. The language of this chapter is as wide as all humanity. To be eligible for the indescribable blessings provided through the Servant's work it is only necessary that one recognize his need.

The chapter divides naturally into groups of two verses each, except that the first part of verse 3 goes with what precedes, while its latter half clearly belongs with what follows.

(1) Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and all who have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (2) Why do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me; eat what is good and delight yourselves in fatness. (3) incline your ear and come to me. Listen, that your soul may live.

This is one of the greatest Gospel calls to be found anywhere in the Scripture. The note of universality is struck right in the first line. It is addressed to all who thirst. It declares that God's inexhaustible blessings are available to everyone who will receive them.

Verse 1 stresses the fact that the wonderful gift is offered freely. Yet these verses must be understood in relation to Isaiah 53. Although the human recipient pays nothing for what is offered, it cost the divine Giver a tremendous amount.