

Series: Isaiah

Title: A Feast of Fat Things

Text: Isaiah 25: 6-8

Date: December 6, 2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Turn with me in your Bibles to Isaiah 25: 6. Last time we finished chapter 22. We will go back to the scriptures leading up to this 25th chapter another time. This morning we are observing the Lord's Table so I thought it appropriate to speak to you concerning the Feast of Fat Things.

Isaiah 25: 6: And In this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Our Lord compares the gospel to a feast for hungry sinners in his parable in Matthew 22: 1-14.

I. This feast is prepared in Mt. Zion, heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the firstborn.

As we saw in the parable, the LORD God first prepared this feast in the nation of Israel. He sent forth his prophets one after another bidding men to come to the feast--but they made light of it and went their own way. They would not come so he sent forth his armies. As we have seen, the LORD used the nation of Assyria to break down the walls of his vineyard in Judah, to clear the ground. He took away all the cities which were a support to his nation, bringing an end to the nation Israel. There would never again be the kind of prosperity they knew in the reign of David, until God sent forth the everlasting King, Jesus Christ his Son.

Isaiah 25: 6: And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Early in his ministry, the first miracle our Lord performed was at a marriage feast in Cana where he turned water into wine. Then at the end of his earthly walk, the night in which our Lord was betrayed, he sat down with his apostles to a well-prepared table. They observed the Passover for the last time--Christ is our Passover. Then the Lord administered a new feast. He gave them the broken bread and the wine, instructing us to take and eat in remembrance of his broken body and shed blood until his return. This feast is this gospel age in which we are drawn to the feast our God has made for us in this day. Are you hungry? Will you be like Israel of old and go your own way. Come to the feast before the Lord once again comes in judgment.

II. The guest invited to this feast are "all people"

Isaiah 25: 6: And In this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people...

Judah represented God's remnant in Israel. But before our Lord ascended he said, "Go into all the world and preach this gospel." It is because our Lord chose to save a remnant from among all people on the face of the earth. We don't know who they are but we have the word of the gospel through which our Lord says, "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me. Therefore we go forth, not with our word, but with his.

III. The table is set with the choice things.

Isaiah 25: 6: And In this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Under the law of Moses, the Jews were not allowed to eat fat. That tells us this text has its accomplishment in this gospel age. These fat things full of marrow are: righteousness accomplished, redemption accomplished, full complete acceptance with God for his people.

Free grace is flowing like wine to those who are bid by God to the table.

Proverbs 21: 6: Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

7: Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Are you ready to perish? Has your sin made your heart heavy? Let me give you some strong drink:

1 Corinthians 10:16: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Ephesians 2:13: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 9:14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

He drank the cup of wrath dry that his redeemed might freely drink the wine of forgiveness! Are you ready to perish? Is your heart heavy? Come to the table by faith in Christ Jesus. Drink of the wine of forgiveness and forget your former poverty and remember your misery no more.

The table is a **feast of fat things**--meaning, there is such an abundance of grace in the gospel of Christ that whatever your soul needs you can find in him.

Psalm 36: 7: How excellent *is* thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. 8: They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Psalm 69: 5: My soul shall be satisfied as *with* marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips: 6: When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

IV. The gospel of Christ's Light removes the veil.

Isaiah 7: And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

Psalm 36: 9: For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

In this Mt. Zion, the church of Christ the Firstborn, through the preaching of his gospel, Christ the Light makes his children to see light.

Isaiah 4: 4: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. 5: And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory *shall be a defense.* (the glory of God shall be the covering)

2 Corinthian 3:10: For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. 11: For if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious. 12: Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13: And not as Moses, *which* put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; *which veil is done away in Christ.* 15: But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. 16: Nevertheless when it [their heart] shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. 17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. 18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,

James calls the gospel, "the perfect law of liberty"--he compares looking into this perfect word of perfect liberty to that of looking into a mirror--but instead of seeing our face--by the power of the Holy Spirit changing our hearts we don't see our old sinful face, but we:

2 Corinthians 3: 18:...are changed into the same image [image of God, image of Christ] **from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord....[chapter 4: 4]...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,** [that covering is over them, but what does the clear, plain declaration of the gospel do] **lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them....6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** [Those born of God in this mirror, this perfect law of liberty, do not see their old wretched sinful face any more but we behold Christ, because through the power of God unto salvation we] **are changed into the same image** [recreated after the image of God, in the image of Christ] **from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

Paul says this is the glory wherein the gospel excels the law. Seeing as how we have this hope, seeing as how this is how we received this mercy, we use great plainness of speech,

II Corinthians 4: 5:...we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake...[because] 7:...we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

James said, the man who looks into this perfect law of liberty but does not continue in it, unbridles his tongue, crafts his language, uses dishonest, deceitful words and methods to try to force sinners to see, to walk honorably and so on, he said he is

James 1: 23:...a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was....26: If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart [into thinking he can convert men by mixing water with the wine, deceiveth himself into thinking that there is fatness of marrow in his own words and ways] **this man's religion is vain.**

James 1: 25: But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Back to our text: what does the Spirit of God do through this feast of the gospel?

V. HE SWALLOWS UP DEATH.

Isaiah 25: 8: He will swallow up death in victory;

This feast declares that Christ conquered death for those he represented when he died.

Hebrews 2: 14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

1 Corinthians 15: 56: The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57: But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3: 17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

When the Lord draws us to this table, he recreates us in the image of God, in the image of Christ, and as he makes us *swallow up* this gospel he makes us to live upon the precious truth that he has *swallowed up* death for you in victory.

VI. HE WIPES AWAY TEARS

Isaiah 25: 8:...and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces;

The tears of mourning our sin are turned to joy when we hear of God's love for us in Christ Jesus. The tears caused by separation from God are turned to rejoicing when we hear that God reconciled us to himself in Christ Jesus. The tears caused by wondering what tomorrow holds are wiped away when he reveals in us that our God holds tomorrow.

VII. HE TAKES AWAY THE REBUKE OF HIS PEOPLE

Isaiah 25: 8:...and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth:

Christ bore the rebuke of religious men when he lived and died for his people.

Psalm 69:9: For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Psalm 89:50: Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants; *how* I do bear in my bosom *the reproach* of all the mighty people;

Because that same rejection by the self-righteous put him on the cross to bear away your burden this is his gospel to you.

Isaiah 66:5: Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

In the face of opposition, the carnal minded man lies on God because he fears men. But the Spirit of God makes you to stand boldly before men because you have been humbled before your God.

1 Peter 4:14: If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

VIII. One more thing. ANOTHER FEAST IS YET TO COME.

The night our Lord was betrayed, as they feasted on the broken bread and the wine, our Lord spoke of yet another feast to come, saying to his apostles,

Matthew 26: 29: "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

We feast on the gospel of God's grace in Christ every time we come to this place. We feast in remembrance of our Lord's broken body and shed blood as we observe our Lord' Supper together like we are doing today. In that last day, when God has sent forth his armies to put down all the enemies over all the earth, when all God's elect have been called in, God will make all things new, then there will be a marriage feast in which all we behold the glory of God's grace upon his Bride, the Church. Everything we saw here will be true of that feast:

- It will be a feast of fat things
- The veil of these bodies of death will be no more
- Death will be swallowed up in victory completely
- There will be no more tears
- For he shall take away the scorers and their rebuke from off the whole earth

Revelation 19: 1: And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2: For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand....7: Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8: And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9: And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Brethren this is the substance of grace, the substance of this feast of fat things, of wines on the lees well-refined. It is sure and effectual in the hearts of those God makes willing for one reason. Because through his gospel...

Isaiah 25:...for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Revelation 17: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

All things are ready! Come sinner! And now, my brethren, lets come to this feast once more in remembrance of our Lord's broken body and shed blood--and let's do so looking forward to his return and that great marriage supper of the Lamb.

AMEN!