

CASTING A VISION Isaiah 58:1-12

Read text: **Isaiah 58:1-12**

Vss. 1-3a (**READ**) Israel was looking for a blessing from God. Vs. 2, “Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways”. God is saying that they seem to want a personal relationship with Him. God continues by saying, “They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching God.” (**Elaborate**)

Then we hear their plea in verse 3a, “‘Why have we fasted,’ *they say*, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’” (**Elaborate**)

However, we must note the little comment in the middle of verse 2, “As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.” Something was missing. This is brought out in vss. 3b-5 (**Read and elaborate**).

The problem was that they wanted a vertical relationship with God without a horizontal touch in the lives of others.

- They wanted God to do something FOR them while they added nothing to the lives of others.

- They wanted heaven to visit them while there was no touch from them on earth to impact the lives of other people.

A truth we need to understand is that when we go up (in prayer and maybe fasting) to bring heaven down, heaven wants to see how we will go out to deliver help and hope to others. This is a NT principle for us today: **1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-12, and Matthew 25:31-46.**

- When we look at our text in Isaiah 58, we see that this is the “fast” that God requires: **vss. 6, 7 (elaborate)**.

Over and over again in Scripture we see where God connects our vertical relationship with Him to our horizontal dealings with our fellow man.

We get God's attention when we are willing to give to others what we are asking for ourselves from God. (**Luke 6:38-Elaborate**). It's the difference between being blessed and being a blessing.

I honestly believe this is how our church wants to live, to be a blessing to this community. To be a conduit of God's love and grace to a lost world. And what will the result be? Verses 8-12 of Isaiah 58 (**Read and elaborate**).

Now, why am I saying all of this? I want to cast a vision for HillCity Church. I want to paint a picture, stir your imagination and heart to what I believe God has for us. And here it is in a sentence, “At HillCity Church, by God's grace, we will love the unloveable, touch the untouchable, and do the impossible as we grow up in Christ and go out in love” (**Elaborate**).

Pray