

Enough
Psalm 63:1-8
Isaiah 55:1-9

Part of the soundtrack of my life is music from the 60's and 70's. The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Elvis, Motown, and more, influenced the lives of many of us Baby Boomers. The chorus from this Rolling Stones song has been echoing in my mind this morning:

I can't get no satisfaction

I can't get no satisfaction

'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try

I can't get no, I can't get no

and the verses explain why the singer "can't get no satisfaction":

When I'm drivin' in my car

And the man comes on the radio

He's telling me more and more

About some useless information

Supposed to fire my imagination

and

When I'm watchin' my TV

And a man comes on and tells me

How white my shirts can be

But he can't be a man 'cause he doesn't smoke

The same cigarettes as me

The messages being received say that whatever we are doing, whatever we have, it just isn't enough. Anyone familiar with the Rolling Stones knows they have spent a lifetime chasing after enough – fame, fortune, drugs, partners, and so on. However, the rich and famous are not alone in their pursuit of more.

On the opposite end of the spectrum from wealthy entertainers and entrepreneurs are those people living paycheck to paycheck, in shelters, or on the streets. These people want more, too. However, the “more” they are looking for are the simple necessities of life: food, clothing, and shelter. They, too, struggle to find satisfaction.

Even in church people are looking for satisfaction. We come seeking a divine word, the chance to catch a glimpse of the face of God. Yet often we rush out the door at the end of the service to hustle off to the mall to check out the sales at our favorite shops. After a week of scrambling for our pay, trying to keep pace in the marketplace where the competition is fierce, we come to church tired, drained, and, yet, still thirsting for more.

It could be that Isaiah heard this word from God after visiting a marketplace, the Montgomery mall of his time. The ancient marketplace was a bustling center of commerce, with people eager to buy, others

struggling to sell their wares, and still others standing at the margins with little assets of their own, maybe even begging for a handout so they, too, could eat that day.

All human beings are beset with daily needs. Jesus even taught us to pray for “our daily bread.” Why would God create us with these daily needs? Because God wants us to depend on Him. Without these desires we would have little need to look to Him for our sustenance.

While God created the world to meet our physical needs, with streams of flowing water and fields of waving grain for bread, Isaiah’s message is that what we really need is God Himself. If that is so, why do we expend so much energy chasing after those things that can’t really satisfy our hunger and thirst? God says that he offers the best fare, far beyond what we are able to procure with our meager wages, and he is addressing the Warren Buffets of the world as well as the lowliest people in society. Yet in the market driven society in which we live, His invitation is drowned out by Madison Avenue and Wall Street.

God calls, “Come”, yet we hesitate. We wait to see what new and exciting thing might capture our attention; we wait to see if something better will come along. We fool ourselves into believing there is something better than God. We do so at our own peril. Perhaps it is because God’s ways are not our ways. We struggle to understand where

or why God is leading us and balk at the notion of change, even if it is for our benefit.

When we balk, we tend to move further away from God. We waiver in our devotion and in time wonder where God has wandered off to, when in fact we were the ones who wandered off. It is in those times that we begin to notice the thirst and hunger we didn't feel before. We ask ourselves how long we have felt this way? We hope we are able to return to that place where our needs were meet almost without our giving thought to it.

When we hear God's call to "Come" and respond to His call we will find we feel truly alive because of our relationship with Him. He is the God in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). We learn that the money we strive for is insufficient. The glamor and glory we seek is nothing more than vanity. We don't need to struggle and strain to get through life. Life with God is a life of joy, with blessings freely and abundantly given.

By answering God's call to "Come" we live out our calling as the royal priesthood of believers. We become the evidence of God's good gifts to those around us, we are covered in God's glory, and we give witness to this glory in a hurting world. Covered in God's glory we no longer need to seek our own satisfaction in this world. Those days of striving after things that don't last and don't satisfy our deepest needs are over.

Yet even then, we can fall into old patterns. Like spoiled children we can again focus on our toys and forget about the giver Who so freely gave to us. While we are to be in the world, work and taxes are still a part of our lives, but that is not the be all and end all of our existence. We soon learn that striving after this world's wealth, leaves us settling for scraps when we could be feasting on the best fare instead.

The good news this morning is that despite our propensity to wander off chasing after shiny things, God is always near. Not only is He near, but He is also ready to forgive and restore us to our rightful inheritance. Because of His deep, abiding love for us He is ready to bestow upon us blessings that are more than enough. He invites us to the banquet he has prepared where everyone has access to milk and wine and bread, enough to satisfy.

During Lent let us cease our striving after material goods and those things that don't satisfy the hunger in our souls. Let us answer the call to come to the banquet prepared for us, drinking the milk and the wine, and eating the bread of life give for us. Let our praises to God resound so all around us will be drawn to the joy and satisfaction to be found in the Lord. Then everyone will be satisfied because there is always enough for all.

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