SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

The reason we are so thirsty (Isaiah 55:1) is because we are so wicked (Isaiah 55:7). We pursue our own sinful ways, and wallow in our own unrighteous thoughts, and it leaves us hollow and empty at heart. God wants us to return to him. He wants us to come from hunger to food, from thirst to water, from sadness to joy and from death to life. True satisfaction and entire soul satiation only come in the presence of God. So we must forsake our wickedness and seek him today.

- You may come to the Lord as your are, but not to stay as you are. He wants you to turn from your sin. What are some things in your life that you know Christ wants you to forsake? List them below.
- Take time right now to confess them to God and turn from them in your heart (1John 1:9). Let God abundantly pardon you today.

Look up (Psalm 103:3-4, 8-14) and reflect on God's forgiveness. Look up (Micah 7:18-19) and praise God for his pardoning heart and steadfast love. By faith, receive the forgiveness of God and revel in his mercy toward you.

- Have you had a wrong view of God's forgiveness - perhaps seeking to earn it by good deeds, or make yourself worthy of it through post-sin faithfulness? God's forgiveness is pure grace. It must be received as a gift and responded to with love. He who has been forgiven much, loves much! Express your heart of love to God for his great forgiveness. Spend some time in prayer right now.
- Whenever we come face to face with the way God forgives us, we are challenged to forgive others. Read (Matthew 6:12, 14-15) and notice the link between God forging us and our forgiveness of others. Also look up (Ephesians 4:32) and write out the reason we must forgive others. Who do you need to forgive today?

You can't seek something by accident. It takes intentionality. Seeking the Lord requires an entire realignment of our lives. It means that we must stop treating Christ as a religious garnish on the side, and instead make him our continual feast, our defining center.

- Until we seek the Lord, our ways and our thoughts are as far from God as the heavens are from the earth. He remains distinct and distant from the sinner who persists in his sin. But if we will seek the Lord, he will be found (Deuteronomy 4:29; Jeremiah 29:13). If we draw near to God, he will draw near to us (James 4:8).
- What purposeful commitments do you need to make today in order to seek the Lord? Write down an action plan below. Perhaps it will include things related to prayer, scripture reading, or decisions about the future.

TODAY'S NOTES