



## LESSON 23

### ISAIAH 58-60

1. What facet of God's faithful love encouraged or convicted you from last week's lesson on **Isaiah 55-57**?
2. Pray for insight as you read through **Isaiah 58-60**, in which we see that although Judah's sin was great, God's love was greater, and He intends to bless the repentant. Also read **Hebrews 12:5-11**. What questions or assurances stir in you from the **Hebrews** passage?
3. In **Isaiah 58:1-5** God rebukes Israel for their sin and rebellion. What is their pretense around fasting and what is God exposing about their motives?
4. Describe the kind of fasting that God has chosen in **Ch. 58:6-7**. How does this challenge your understanding of fasting or other spiritual practices?

5. Obedience to God's direction and commandments comes with blessing, as outlined in **58:8-14**. Which of them especially pokes at you and why?
6. Read **Isaiah 59:1-15a**, which includes graphic language about Judah's offenses while in captivity.
- a) What do **V1-8** tell you about the nature and consequences of sin and about God's priorities?
- b) What is the main point of Isaiah's confession in **V12-13**? What are some of the specific examples he gives? *Notice the change in pronouns from "they" and "their" to "we" and "our" beginning in V9.*
7. Read through **59:15b-21**, where God reacts to the sin of His people. Paying attention to what God sees, feels, and does, write a truth about God.
8. What does Isaiah have to say to Zion about light and darkness in **Isaiah 60:1-3**? *Challenge:* How do you think "light" and Zion's future "glory" are connected? *For a fuller understanding of all who are included in the future glory of Zion, refer to **Isaiah 45:17, 59:20, and Romans 11:26-27.***

9. Read through **Isaiah 60:4-16**. Summarize the regathering in Israel. What has God determined to do in all people, both Jew and Gentile, as revealed in **V9b, 10b, 13, and 16b**?

10. What do you find most amazing and hopeful in the description of a future Zion in **V17-22**? What do you find most challenging?

11. Reflecting on who God is: **Just (Elohey Mishpat)**

Through Isaiah, God made it very clear that authentic fasting was more about our hearts and justice than a pretense of outward practices. **"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?" Isaiah 58:6.** Consider where God might be directing you to relieve an injustice. Pray for the courage and strength to follow through.

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**