

Study Guide

True Worship

Read Isaiah 58:1-12 as a group.

1. Apparently Judah was rebellious (v.1)! What does it mean to be rebellious towards God? As we examine ourselves, is it possible to be religious and rebellious without realizing it? Where could we find rebellion in our own hearts?
2. According to v. 2-5, how was Judah's worship misguided? What became evident when taking a closer look at their religious activities? (see also Matthew 7:21-23).
3. Discuss the concept that true worship leads to alleviating oppression (v.6-7). What do those specific phrases mean in our context today? How are we called to respond? (see also Micah 6:8).
4. What does God promise to those who help alleviate suffering in this world? (v. 8-12)? How are the promises of God to the missional Christian better than worldly goods?

Message Slides

Big Idea: Sunday is for Monday

A. Reality Check (v.1)

1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins."

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Isaiah 1:5-6

"Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. **6** From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness—only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with olive oil...."

B. Misguided Worship (v. 2-3a)

"**2** For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. **3a** 'Why

have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?'"

B. Misguided Worship (v. 3b-5)

"**3b** Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.

4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?"

C. True Worship Alleviates Oppression (v.6-7)

"**6** 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? **7** Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

>each on mouse click<

1. Spiritual poverty
2. Physical poverty

Relevant Magazine, March 2016

If Christians were to tithe = \$165 billion

- *Relieve Global hunger
- *Eliminate illiteracy in five years
- *Solve the world's water problem
- *Fully fund overseas missions
- *Have billions left over for additional ministry expansion.

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Americans spend:

\$60 billion in the weight loss market

\$22 billion in storage space

Big Idea- Sunday is for Monday

D. True Worship is Refreshing (v.8-12)

“**8** Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. **9** Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, **10** and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. **11** The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. **12** Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”