

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Responding to the Redeemer

### Speaker:

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### Date:

July 4, 2021

### Scriptures:

Isaiah 54-55

**Theme:** Come to the Redeemer who restores the destitute.

**Introduction:** Following the prophecy about the Suffering Servant (Isa 53—the high point of the OT), what is a right response to the promise of God’s mercy and grace? How should we respond to the news of such a glorious Redeemer? Our native tendency to self-reliance leads us to seek to save ourselves, to solve our own problems. But God calls us to come to him, open-handed and needy.

These chapters offer us 2 perspectives on proper responses to the Redeemer:

### 1. Restored to relational fruitfulness (54)

The Lord gives 3 pictures of what happens when he works redemptively in the lives of his people: the barren woman has children, the abandoned wife is restored, and the destitute city is beautified and renewed.

These 3 pictures point to the spiritual renewal at work amongst God’s people. More than physical restoration, these are pictures of spiritual life and sanctification. Because of the work of the Suffering Servant, those who trust in him can be redeemed and restored.

Just as Noah showed God’s salvation in the midst of judgment, so also his judgment of Israel was part of his saving work. Ultimately, the greatest salvation would come through the judgment of God’s Son on behalf of his people.

### 2. Called to cosmic renewal (55)

Isaiah then tells us how to receive the grace that God has provided for us in Jesus. We receive by coming without money to buy and partake of the provision he has made for needy sinners.

We must receive his grace for free, or else it is not grace. If we try to buy or earn favor from God, we are not walking in his grace. We are being self-reliant. But when we turn to him and recognize our needs, we find that he is willing and able to pardon abundantly. His ways and thoughts are higher than our own; and he will send forth his word to accomplish our redemption.

The final picture he provides is of a renewed creation. Creation itself is being restored and the curse is being undone. Our salvation is part of this cosmic renewal that the Lord is accomplishing throughout history.

### Questions:

1. How are you tempted to self-reliance?
2. What situation(s) in your life seem like they are beyond the grace of God?
3. How is the Lord calling you to grow in trusting him as your Redeemer? How is he calling you to come to him?