

## Difficult Things

Isaiah 55:1-13

## Difficult Things

- Some aspects of God's law seem difficult to obey
  - John 6:60 – This is a hard saying
  - Hebrews 5:11 – hard of interpretation
  - II Peter 3:16 – hard to be understood

## Difficult Things

- God shows us how to understand
  - Isaiah 55:6-9 – my thoughts are not your thoughts
    - Seek
    - Call
    - Forsake
    - Return

## Difficult Things

- “God never promised us an easy life”
  - Matthew 11:30 – my yoke is easy
  - II Corinthians 11:23b-28 – more abundantly
  - II Corinthians 4:17-18 – our light affliction

## Keeping God's Commands

- “It's hard to follow God”
  - Numbers 14:2, 11, 22-23 – murmured
  - Hebrews 3:19 – because of unbelief

## Keeping God's Commands

- Understand the commitment
  - Luke 14:28-30 – count the cost
  - Ecclesiastes 12:13 – the whole of man

## Keeping God's Commands

- Determine to keep the commitment
  - II Corinthians 10:3-5 – bringing every thought into captivity
  - I John 5:2-3 – commandments are not grievous

## Hypocrisy

- Feel the church is full of hypocrisy
  - Early church had this problem
  - Romans 2:21-23 – dishonorest thou God
  - Galatians 2:11-13 – dissimulation
    - ὑπόκρισις – hypocrisy

## Hypocrisy

- Hypocrisy is everywhere
  - Romans 3:9-13 – none that seeketh after God
- More clearly seen in the church
  - World – ignores the problem
  - Church – works on fixing it

## Church Discipline

- “I don't think that's right”
  - I John 4:16 – God is love
    - Read the entire chapter
  - Romans 11:19-23 – the goodness and severity of God

## Church Discipline

- Commanded
  - II Thessalonians 3:6,14 – command you
    - Withdraw yourselves
    - Have no company

## Church Discipline

- Commanded
  - I Corinthians 5:1-13 – may be saved
    - Taken away
    - Deliver such a one
    - Purge out
    - Not to keep company
    - No, not to eat
    - Put away the wicked

## Church Discipline

- Our attitude
  - II Thessalonians – as a brother
  - II Corinthians 2:6-9 – forgive him ... comfort him ... confirm your love

## Repentance

- This can be difficult
  - Matthew 19:21-22 – went away sorrowful

## Repentance

- μετανοέω – “implying pious sorrow for unbelief and sin and a turning from them unto God and the gospel of Christ” (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*)

## Repentance

- Acts 3:19 – turn again
- Acts 8:22 – wickedness
- II Corinthians 7:9-11 – godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation

## Repentance

- Simple sorrow is not enough
- We must be “pure”
  - Acts 26:19-20 – doing works worthy of repentance

## Difficult Things

- Seek wisdom within the Scriptures
  - Colossians 1:9-10 – all spiritual wisdom
  - Colossians 2:3 – treasures of wisdom and knowledge
  - Proverbs 14:6 – knowledge is easy

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved”?

- Hear the Word of God
  - *Romans 10:1* – “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved”?

- Believe in that Word
  - *Romans 10:11* – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved”?

- Repent of your sins
  - *Acts 3:19* – “Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved”?

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
  - *I John 4:15* – “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved”?

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
  - *Acts 2:38* – “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”