

Difficult Things

Isaiah 55:6-13

Difficult Things

- Some aspects of God's law seem difficult to obey
 - John 6:60, 66 – This is a hard saying
 - Hebrews 5:11 – hard of interpretation
 - II Peter 3:14-16 – hard to be understood

Difficult Things

- God shows us how to understand
 - Isaiah 55:6-13 – my thoughts are not your thoughts
 - Seek
 - Call
 - Forsake
 - Return

Difficult Things

- “God never promised us an easy life”
 - Matthew 11:28-30 – 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 3:16-19 – 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 3:15 – as a brother
 - II Corinthians 2:6-9 – forgive him ... comfort him ... confirm your love

Repentance

- This can be difficult
 - Matthew 19:21-22 – he 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.”

“What Must I Do To Be Saved”?

- Remain faithful
 - *Hebrews 3:12-14* – “12 Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God: 13 but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called Today; lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin: 14 for we are become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast** the beginning of our confidence **firm unto the end**”