



Sermon Discussion Guide

OUR WAYS, GOD'S WAYS

Isaiah 55:6-9

Tom Groelsema, 11/6/22

Big Idea: Isaiah 55 teaches us that we must come in repentance to a God who abundantly pardons.

Outline:

- What is Repentance?
 - Who is the God who Forgives?
1. Isaiah is one of the richest books of the Bible. Do you have any favorite chapter/verse/section from Isaiah?¹
 2. Tom described repentance as a U-turn.² Can you think of someone who has been a great example of a U-turn in coming to Christ?
 3. Tom said that in repentance, “there is a call for mercy and humility to God.” What’s the difference between repentance *without* humility, and true repentance? Why is humility so necessary?
 4. Tom said, “Repentance is not just a one-time event that happened when we first began to walk with Jesus, but repentance is a daily practice; an hourly practice; sometimes repentance is minute by minute in the Christian life.” How does having a posture of repentance affect our entire day?
 5. Look at Psalm 103:11. God’s ways are higher than ours in many ways, including his forgiveness. Tom said, “When it comes to his mercy, grace, and abundant pardon, God stands completely different than us.” How does the majesty of God’s forgiveness give you hope in the current season of life?
 6. Tom gave some “action words” that capture the essence of repentance: *seek, call, forsake, return*. Who in your family needs prayer, that God would give them true repentance? How can the group pray for them specifically?
 7. *Reflection Question:* When was the last time repentance looked like “running away” or a “U-turn” in your life? Is there any sin that God is calling you to flee from? His forgiveness is abundant!

¹ Tom mentioned Isa 6, Isa 35, Isa 40, Isa 53.

² Heidelberg Catechism Questions 88-90:

- 88. What is the true repentance or conversion of man? **It is the dying of the old nature and the coming to life of the new.**
- 89. What is the dying of the old nature? **It is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have offended God by our sin, and more and more to hate it and flee from it.**
- 90. What is the coming to life of the new nature? **It is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ, and a love and delight to live according to the will of God in all good works.**