

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont**  
**Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit**  
**Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon**  
**Lesson # 8 January 17, 2023 – January 22, 2023**

**Unit II: GOD’S Promises**  
**Subject: Living Right over Empty Rituals**  
**Text: Isaiah 58: 6-10**

**Key Verse: If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day (Isaiah 58: 10, KJV).**

**Lesson Pointers:**

- 1) Sow as Stated (Isaiah 58: 6-7)**
- 2) Reap the Rewards (Isaiah 58: 8-10)**

**Introduction**

Living in a world where ritual performance contrasts with true penitence coupled with acts of justice. As the people of GOD, we need to adhere to GOD’S word, and take care of those who are hungry and afflicted in our society, community, and world. We are not to pretend that we care by just going through the same old rituals, but having a repented heart to do just what the LORD GOD said for us to do. Then when we worship GOD, we will know that the only acceptable thing to GOD, is to worship GOD in Spirit and in Truth, this is real worship and not pretending worshipping.

**Living Right over Empty Rituals!**

**Lesson Pointer # 1**

- **Sow as Stated (Isaiah 58: 6-7)**

Like the Israelites who seemed to be confused concerning what GOD required of them through their worshipping. Found themselves displeasing GOD through empty religious rituals that was not of a sincere, obedience heart. We, too, as modern-day Christians has fallen to that same pattern of worshipping, going through the motions of worshiping, thinking that somehow GOD is satisfied with our worshipping. GOD called HIS people (Israelites) to self-examine themselves, saying, “What is the fast that I have chosen for you?” Is it not the fast that I have chosen to loose the bands of the wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? It is true that we cannot be saved without the grace and the faith in JESUS CHRIST, but if our faith in JESUS CHRIST lacks sincerity, than our faith in JESUS CHRIST does not reach out to others. Fasting can help us both spiritually and physically, but GOD is saying unto HIS people, that our fasting should go beyond our own personal growth, to acts of kindness, charity, justice, and generosity. This is pleasing unto GOD our Father (Isaiah 58: 6). You see, fasting turns our hearts toward expression of true worshipping, servicing others, helping those in bondage, helping the oppressed, and feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and assisting the homeless (Isaiah 58: 7). JESUS CHRIST reminded us in HIS words in Matthew 25: 35-40, saying, “**For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in. 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then**

shall the righteous answer him, saying, LORD, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee. 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” You see, fasting gives sensitivity and strength to do the right thing when it comes to those in need.

**Living Right over Empty Rituals!**

### **Lesson Pointer # 2**

- **Reap the Rewards (Isaiah 58: 8-10)**

Now when we combine our fasting and religious rituals with righteous living and love, we will experience blessings, which begins with answered prayer; lives full of light, healing, righteousness, and the glory of the LORD (Isaiah 58: 8). True worshippers has faith in GOD, to move GOD to hearing and answering their calls and cries for help. We as believers are not to oppress the people or to mock others, nor to cast blame, and to speak evil of others (Isaiah 58: 9). Now, when we as believers show sympathy and compassion for the afflicted, the hungry, and the in just victims. GOD will comfort and provide for us in our times of trouble (Isaiah 58: 10). To honor and please GOD the actions and attitudes of our heart should reverence GOD and loving others. When we reverence and honor GOD, we reap the rewards.

**Living Right over Empty Rituals!**

**Nuggets of the Lesson:**

- 1) **Knowing the fast that the LORD has given us (Isaiah 58: 6; Nehemiah 5: 10-12; Jeremiah 34: 9).**
- 2) **We as believers are to help feed the poor, cloth the naked, and not hide ourselves from helping (Isaiah 58: 7; Deuteronomy 22: 1-4; Luke 3: 11)**
- 3) **We are to combine true worship with fasting, and with righteous living, and love, to experience blessings from GOD (Isaiah 58: 8; Jeremiah 33: 6)**