

Tyre: Pompous Pride Profaned

Isaiah 23:1-18

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Introduction

Today we continue our study in Isaiah where we have been looking at the LORD's proclamations against the nations that surrounded Israel in the 8th century BC.

- One theme seems to come out in almost every chapter:
 - namely, that it is utter folly for the nations to suppose that they can safely ignore the true and living God.

- That is the great deception in all the ages of the world since the fall.
 - It was the deception in Isaiah's day and it is the deception in our day.
 - If things seem to be going reasonably well for us, we suppose that we are secure, even if we have never bothered to be reconciled to God.
 - We seem to quickly put it far from us that we are going to die and give an account to Him, and that He is a holy judge who hates sin.
 - We dream that somehow everything will be okay even if we never bother to reconcile with Him.
 - That was the problem when Isaiah lived and that is a problem for us in Canada today—and that is the problem for the nations all around us.

This week, we come to look at Phoenicia—in particular at the city of Tyre.

- And here we find one of the wealthiest cities of the times—
 - a city that had made their fortune on the sea, transporting goods all over the Mediterranean Sea.

- And this city fell into the great deception of the wealthy...
 - They had come to believe that because they were wealthy, they could safely ignore the true and living God.
 - This is a deception so powerful that the Scriptures are full of warnings about it.
 - Moses warned Israel about the dangers of wealth when they came into the promised land and how they would be prone to forget God if they did not exercise care.
 - The prophets continued these warnings and often blasted the people for this sin.
 - Our Lord Jesus frequently warned about the deceitfulness of riches when He was on the earth—it was one of His most frequent themes.

- In our New Testament reading today, we saw how Paul urged Timothy to warn the people at Ephesus about the ruin that comes from the love of money...
 - the root of all kinds of evil.
- Riches have a way of intoxicating the owners and making them think they are safe and in no danger of God's judgement.
 - The owners become like a drunk who can't see clearly—
 - They start to think they are something other than what they are!
 - And unlike the drunk, their escapades are not punctuated with hangovers...
 - They often go undisturbed in their deception, completely blind as one living in a dream world.
 - And sadly, many who look on also envy them, believing that they are safe and secure in their riches and wishing they could have what they have.
- This topic is so very relevant for us today!
 - In North America, we have been intoxicated by our wealth.
 - It has, along with other things, caused us to suppose that we can safely ignore the living God.
 - Yes, there are thousands in our city who have been baptised,
 - but who have never even thought it necessary to cast themselves on the Lord Jesus for salvation.
 - They have been given the sign of the covenant, but they have never bothered to repent and believe...
 - They go on in a false security as if the Saviour is not really needed.
 - And even those who believe are often deluded into thinking that He is not much needed from day to day!
 - But here in Isaiah 23, we are given a very useful lesson about the deceitfulness of riches!
 - Let us hear what the Spirit says that we may become wise.

TRANS> I want you to see first of all how this passage teaches us that:

I. Riches are nothing to take pride in, for they are uncertain.

- **This is shown to us in Isaiah 23:1-8.**
- A. Isaiah presents the reversal of Tyre's fortunes in a very dramatic way...to show us the uncertainty of riches...
 - Instead of simply declaring that Tyre has lost everything,

- He issues a series of commands to all those who are associated with Tyre, calling upon them to react with amazement at what has happened to her!
 - This has a much more striking effect than the mere statement of her reversal.
1. In verse 1, he commands the ships of Tarshish to wail because Tyre is laid waste—with no house and no harbour within her!
 - This great city that was perhaps the busiest port in the ancient world—ruined!
 - The ships of Tarshish were her world renowned ships—
 - the ships she had built that could make the long journey from Tyre to Tarshish in Spain.
 - They are pictured here returning to her from their journey from the west only to be told along the way (at Kittim or Cyprus) that Tyre has been wasted!
 2. In verse 2-3 her merchants are called to silence—to be still—to a stunned, amazed silence at the destruction of this city in which they had their living!
 - These merchants are described as those who carry grain from Egypt into all the world for trade—
 - The “grain of Shihor” was the world famous grain of Egypt
 - and the “harvest of the River” refers to the harvest of the Nile which caused the grain of Egypt to flourish.
 - The corn and wheat of Egypt supplied the world,
 - being carried by these merchants of Tyre and Sidon and exchanged for products from all over the world.
 - But now all this commerce has been brought to a standstill.
 3. In verse 4, the command goes out to Sidon to be ashamed...
 - Ashamed because she was the one who had begotten Tyre through union with the Sea.
 - Sidon was the more ancient city, and it was from her that Tyre had been populated and through trade on the sea had become so prosperous—
 - The daughter was more prosperous than the mother...
 - but now it is as though Sidon were childless!
 - It is as if she had never even had any children at all.
 4. And in verse 5-6, Isaiah commands Tyre’s trading partners to mourn...
 - For they too would have been greatly affected by the fall of Tyre whom they depended on for the importation and exportation of their goods.
 - We are told that Egypt will be in agony, and Tarshish with all the inhabitants of the coastland are to wail.

- If Tyre is ruined, so are they.
 - Their economies were tied together with Tyre.

TRANS> There is great amazement and distress at the destruction of Tyre.

- She had seemed so secure—so permanent!

B. In verses 7-8, Isaiah describes how secure she had seemed to be in her prosperity...

- The nations are shocked because nobody expected Tyre to be broken.
 - It seemed impossible for such a successful city to be ruined.
 - Who would even do it?
 - What reason would they have—
 - Tyre was not a threat to other nations...
 - It was rather a place of opportunity for them!
 - It was here that they could trade their goods and make a profit.
 - Why would anyone be against her?
 - She was not one of those warlike nations—she was rather a boon to all the nations!
- And so Isaiah portrays the amazement of all at Tyre’s ruin with a series of questions...
 - Once again, this has a very striking effect...
 - an effect which is needed to awaken the hearers out of deception about the delusion of security in riches.
 - We have to be shaken out of our delusive dreams...

1. Seeing the ruin that is coming upon Tyre, Isaiah begins with the question (v. 7),

- “Is this your joyous city?”
- Here, all the finer things of life were enjoyed—there was feasting and banquets, great music and art...
 - but it was not the kind of joy that delights in God—it was the kind of joy of those who have forgotten God in their success.
 - Such joy can be so delusive and intoxicating so as to make us think that it will last forever and that we will never need to be bother with God...
 - But now all the joy is gone!

2. Isaiah continues—

- “Is this your joyous city whose antiquity is from ancient days?”
- Tyre boasted much in its antiquity—it had been around for over 1500 years in the day of Isaiah...

- Antiquity adds even more to the delusion of security.
- If she has been around from ancient times,
 - is it not reasonable to suppose that she will be around for many years to come? especially when she is continuing to prosper?
- But here length of years did not make her safe...
 - It does not make any city safe.
 - Isaiah sees the coming ruin and he says,
 - “Is this your ancient city?”

3. Isaiah asks further,

- “Is city... whose feet carried her far off to dwell?”
 - This is probably a reference to the way she established colonies all over the world through her great wealth,
 - much as Great Britain when she was at her height.
 - Isaiah refers to her a “crowning city” in verse 8 because she had crowned kings in these colonies, so great was her influence—
 - and all through commerce! through peaceable means.
- Who, Isaiah asks, would take counsel against so great a city as this?

4. He then goes on to speak of the honour she enjoyed...

- In verse 8 he describes her merchants as princes— and her traders as the honourable of the earth...
 - They carried themselves with a regal bearing and lived like kings because of all their wealth.
 - They were highly esteemed.
- All this importance had come to them because of their great wealth...
 - And all this had added to the delusion of security without God.
 - Those who are rich have great authority in the earth as long as their riches continue...
 - and it makes them think of themselves as superior to others.

C. Oh my brothers and sisters, the world is so easily dazzled by riches!

- And so are we, even we, who know and love our Lord Jesus Christ!
- It is so easy to think that those who have riches are secure forever and will never be in need of a thing!
 - It is easy because they do have a kind of security through their riches for a

- It is even easy to miss the ugliness of sin in the rich—
 - You can see the ugliness of sin in a man on the streets,
 - you can see his pettiness and his selfishness... it is in plain view...
 - But for the rich is often masked behind their riches because we define them by what they have instead of by what they are...
 - and they define themselves in the same way.
 - They see no need of redemption—they see no need of a Saviour—
- It is a great delusion and we need to let the powerful words of Isaiah's account of Tyre's fall wake us out of the delusion...
 - Let us see that in the economy of God, the only security to be found in riches is a deceptive one!
 - Did our Lord not speak of the "deceitfulness of riches?"
 - Let us be delivered from all such deception to realise that there is no ultimate safety in them!
 - In fact, let us see (and this the second point of my sermon) that

II. The only thing that is certain about riches is that God will destroy those who take pride in them.

- There is not only no lasting security in riches—there is also certain danger in the pride of wealth!
- A. Verse 9 shows us that the LORD is the avenger of those who take pride in wealth!
- Isaiah says of Him:
 - Isaiah 23:9: The LORD of hosts has purposed it, To bring to dishonor the pride of all glory, To bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth.
1. In verse 8 Isaiah asked who it was that had dared to take counsel against Tyre...
 - and in verse 9 he tells us that it is the LORD of Hosts Himself!
 - He is the one who has purposed the destruction that is coming upon this fair city who thought they would endure for ever!
 - That's right, brothers and sisters,
 - as we have seen over and over in Isaiah,
 - the calamities that befall the nations are not just random events or just the result of the counsel of the nations...
 - They are the deliberate acts of the LORD of Hosts...

- They are the outworking of His holy purposes who works all things after the counsel of His own will!
- If we would understand world history, we must see His hand in everything that befalls the nations.
 - Those who reject the sovereignty of God in the affairs of men are simply wrong.

TRANS> But look at the way Isaiah presents God's purpose here in verse 9.

2. He presents His purpose to destroy the pride of Tyre as a *universal purpose* He has toward all pride!
 - a. In other words, what He does to Tyre is what He has purposed to do to pride *wherever* it may be found!
 - He is insistent that no flesh should glory in His presence!
 - He absolutely refuses to give His glory to another!
 - He exalts the humble but destroys the proud!
 - b. Look at the wording of verse 9...
 - Isaiah He says that LORD of Hosts has purposed
 - "to bring to dishonour the pride of all glory!"
 - He is not going to let pride remain *anywhere!*
 - The word translated *dishonour* is an interesting one in the original Hebrew.
 - The word is 𐤀𐤏𐤁 *khaw-lal'*
 - It means to *profane*.
 - This word is used a lot in Leviticus where the people and the priests are warned not to profane the worship of God.
 - What a helpful picture this gives us of the glory of pride!
 - It refers to the fact that the proud person has a kind of holiness among men.
 - They are set apart from others by their riches with a kind of sanctity in the eyes of all...
 - And the point is that God is going to take away the deception and bring them to shame.
 - What is held to be sacred, He is going to profane so that men will see that it is not sacred at all.
 - Oh brothers and sisters,

- That is what God's final judgement will do!
- It is a bringing to light of all that is now in darkness, all that is lying and deceptive.
- It is a bringing forth of truth!
 - All false glory will be profaned in that day.
- The pride of man is a very deceptive thing.
 - We are made of the dust of the ground.
 - We are nothing without our Creator.
 - We have nothing apart from Him.
 - And not only that, but we have all fallen into sin!
- What do we have anything to glory in?
 - We are made of dust and we are going to return to dust.
- All glorying in the flesh is a lie and God will not let the lie remain!
 - He will set the record straight!
 - He will put an end to all the deception.
 - He will put a complete end to the pride of glory.
- Look again at Isaiah's words!
 - Isaiah 23:9: The LORD of hosts has purposed it, To bring to dishonor the pride of all glory, To bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth.
 - If He has set Himself to do this, He *will* do it!
 - Let no one suppose in his pride that he can escape the judgement of God!

B. You can see in verses 10-16 how He will humble Tyre in particular...

1. In verse 10, the daughter of Tarshish is called to overflow through her land as the Nile overflows Egypt...
 - only to find that without Tyre, she has lost her strength...
 - Tyre's ruin is also the ruin of Tarshish...
 - When the glory of Tyre fails, so does the glory of Tarshish.
- a. And this is seen to be so easy for the LORD to do—what seemed so impossible and far away, He can do with a mere wave of the hand and command of the voice...
 - In verse 11 we are told that He simply stretches out his hand over the sea and shakes up all the kingdoms—

- and that He issues a command against Canaan to destroy its strongholds.
 - The stretching out of his hand refers to His providence, and the issuing of a command to His decree...
 - All He has to do is speak the word, and not only Tyre, but the whole region of Canaan is totally shaken up.
 - He is the one who says,
 - “let there be light,” and suddenly light appears.
- b. In verse 12, we are shown that the Lord will put an end to the joy and the security that had belonged to Tyre and her partners...
- He tells them that they will rejoice no more—that even though they flee for safety, they will find no rest in the lands to which they flee.
 - The party will end because the LORD of Hosts Himself will end it.
 - Verse 13 seems to indicate (though it is subject to various interpretations) that God will use the Chaldeans to bring about this final destruction...
 - The Chaldeans are the Babylonians, the city that arose to become a great empire in the days of Nebuchadnezzar in the sixth century BC.
 - The Chaldeans who, in the eighth century were not a people and who had only been made a people by the hand of Assyria who had used them to populate the city of Babylon.
 - This once humble people would arise at last to become the agent of the destruction of Canaan of which Tyre was a part!
 - How humbling that a people, so lowly in the time of Isaiah’s prophecy, would be the instrument that would be used to humble invincible Tyre!
2. In verses 14-16 we are shown how God’s work would humble them...
- a. We are reminded once again that when God has finished his work, the ships of Tarshish will wail.
- They will wail because their strength (even Tyre) is laid waste.
 - Their business is ruined because Tyre is ruined.
- b. But I want you to see especially the humility to which proud Tyre is reduced in verses 15-16
- 1) This once proud, self-sufficient city is now portrayed as a forgotten harlot.
- She was once popular and desirable and full of wealth and beauty, but now she is like an old harlot who must sing for her living...
 - She is reduced to the status of a beggar,

- an old woman singing in the streets:
 - v. 16: "Take a harp, go about the city, You forgotten harlot; Make sweet melody, sing many songs, That you may be remembered."
 - Perhaps someone will take notice of you and have compassion on you!
- 2) Oh my brothers and sisters, if only we could learn from this vivid picture.
- Don't you see—we are all beggars before the living God, whatever else we may pretend to be.
 - We have all sinned and come short of His glory, and though we may dress our sin up in this world and pretend that we have beauty,
 - He will at last strip all that away and we will be left as what we are.
 - We will realise that we have nothing but what He freely gives us...
 - As Jesus told us, "Apart from Me you can do nothing."
 - Don't be deceived by the world dressed up.
 - You have no righteousness, no strength, no safety,
 - nothing—in yourself.
 - All that you have is what you have received from Him.

III. Know, therefore that riches come from the Lord alone and are to be used for His glory!

A. God restored Tyre, at least from begging.

- He is the one who restores her riches to her,
 - for He is the one who gives and who takes away whatever we have.
 - Look at verse 17
 - Isaiah 23:17: And it shall be, at the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre. She will return to her hire, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.
 - It is because of His visit that she is restored.
1. This God's great mercy!
 - He will visit her with mercy so that she is no longer a beggar.
 - He will cause her to engage once again in her trade upon the waters!
 - He will graciously provided for her.
 2. But there is something sad about this...

- It seems here in verse 17 that she did not learn her lesson from her humiliation.
 - She has gone right back to her fornication with the kingdoms of the world!
 - She is finding her life in the world instead of in the Lord.
 - She does not acknowledge His hand as the one who gives and who takes away, and instead of worshipping Him, worships her riches.
- We are reminded of the great word of James against this in James 4:4:
 - James 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- Let us be clear here about the problem!
 - The problem is not that you run a business!
 - The problem is not that you make a lot of money at your business!
 - The problem is not that you are successful at your business!
 - That was not Tyre’s problem.
 - The problem is that you wed yourself to the world instead of to God.
 - You worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator.
 - Don’t you see?
 - We were made for Him!
 - We were made to live our lives for His glory because He is the one who is worthy of all glory.
 - And we keep trying to find glory apart from Him—
 - in the things that He has made—
 - In ourselves (he made us)
 - in other people (he made them)
 - in riches (he made all that is in the world).
 - We keep returning to the very foolish notion that there is life to be found apart from Him.
 - And there isn’t!
 - We need to be reconciled to Him because He will not allow us to give our glory to another!
 - It is not that God has an ego problem—not at all!
 - It is that He alone is *worthy* of all glory and it is a gross distortion and injustice of His whole creation for us to fail to recognise that!

- We should be glad that God will not give His glory to another!
 - If He did, there would be no hope of glory!
 - We would be left to glory in the things of this world—forever and ever—with no end to it...
 - And they don't have any of their own glory.
 - They only have the glory that He has given to them!
- God won't allow us to go on like that without putting a stop to it.
 - And I tell you, on the day of judgement,
 - it will be too late to repent.
 - You need to come to your senses now, before it is too late!
 - Have you forgotten your Creator?
 - You may have a million excuses, but it is time for you to repent and come back to Him!

TRANS> Okay, you will say to me, but what does this mean?

B. What does it mean to stop glorying in riches and to start glorying in the LORD?

1. Isaiah shows us right here in our text what that means.

- Look at verse 18—the very last verse:
 - Isa 23:18: Her gain and her pay will be set apart for the LORD; it will not be treasured nor laid up, for her gain will be for those who dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for fine clothing.
- a. It is difficult to tell for certain how this verse relates to the one before,
 - but the point is that somehow, Tyre or at least some of the people of Tyre, have been converted!
 - Because now they are interested in the worship of God.
 - Indeed, we see this in Tyre when Jesus comes into the world
 - There is the woman of Tyre and Sidon who comes to Him and pleads that He would cast the demon out of her child,
 - and she will not stop until He answers her so that He declares how great her faith is!
 - She is not self-sufficient—she knows that unless he blesses her, she has no blessing.
 - And we have the words of Jesus that Tyre is more ready for the gospel than Israel, for He says:

- “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” (Mt 11:21 NKJV)
- The very cities of Israel were proud, but Tyre was ready to humble herself.
- And we have the record in Acts 21 of a church there.
 - Acts 21:3-4: “When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days.
 - Here are a people that delighted in the servants of the Lord who preached the gospel and gave them warm hospitality.

TRANS> So we see that they are people there who have come to Christ.

b. Look at how Isaiah describes the change in Tyre!

- Instead of laying up riches for herself, she would now use all that she has for the service of God...
 - Her gain and her pay is set apart to the LORD.
 - It is set apart for those who dwell before the LORD that they may eat sufficiently and have fine clothing.
- You know that in the Old Testament one of the first things that was neglected when Israel strayed from the Lord was the support of the priests and Levites.
 - The Lord often warned Israel against this...
 - And when Israel returned to the Lord, they once again supported the worship that God had appointed.
 - Well here you see that Tyre is going to contribute to the true worship of God!
- In the New Testament, it is the ministry of the word is supported, for the preaching of the gospel has replaced the Levitical service of the Old Covenant now that Jesus has come.
 - Paul makes this connection in 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 when he says:
 - 1Co 9:13-14: Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.
 - And in Galatians 6:6, he says,
 - Ga 6:6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

- And this is what we do.
 - We support what is important to us.
 - If entertainment is important, we will spend lots of money on that and we will support entertainers so that they can devote themselves to that work.
 - If the gospel is important, we will support the ministry of the gospel so that ministers and missionaries can devote themselves to that work.
 - Sadly, we live in a time of wealth, and we constantly hear of missionaries who are unable to go to the field because of a lack of support...
 - But my brothers, it ought not to be this way!
 - If we love the gospel, we will devote our resources for the propagation of the gospel.
 - I am very encouraged that we have a surplus this year because we can meet and decide how this can be used in areas where it is much needed.
 - We just received word from World Witness this week that Fariborz, our Persian missionary, is grossly underfunded.
 - Perhaps we can help him out.
 - Tyre, by God's grace, became one who promotes the health of the church with her giving.
 - Having first given herself to the Lord, she now gives what she has to the Lord.

TRANS> Sometimes, we have a hard time understanding about the proper use of riches, so before I close, I want to look at 1 Timothy 6:17-18 where we are told of:

2. The two ways a believer is to use His riches for the glory of God.
 - a. First, we are to use our riches for enjoyment.
 - That's right: **enjoyment**
 - It says, "God gives us richly all things to enjoy."
 - 1) That may come as a surprise to you,
 - but you don't think God created gold and silver and precious stones and beautiful oceans teeming with creatures and beautiful skies filled with stars and mountains and hills and that he placed Adam in a garden that was filled with beautiful flowers, excellent food and animals so that man could be bored, do you?

- Of course not—
 - He gave us all these things to enjoy!
 - We need to recognise this and believe this.
 - There is a false piety in the church that denies this.
 - The fact is, God has given us all things **richly** to enjoy!
 - You have a whole lot more than what you need for mere subsistence.
 - God had His eye on enjoyment and pleasure.
 - He delights in giving good gifts to His children.
 - No doubt, after man fell, God drove us out of the garden of delight...
 - But in His mercy, He continues to bestow good things on us—
 - only now these things are corrupted by death and problems to humble us and remind us of our need of Christ...
 - Yet, the testimony of God’s generosity and kindness is still evident in all His gifts!
 - Acts 14:17 reminds us that God:
 - “did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”
- 2) You need to learn to enjoy what God has given us.
- Now at first, that might not seem like a hard thing to do...
 - a) You might say, “Why would we have to **learn** to do that?
 - Isn’t our problem that we give riches too much credit and honour like you said before—that we enjoy them too much?”
 - b) In a way, that is true, but in another way...
 - you could say that we don’t enjoy or honour riches nearly as much as we should.
 - The reason is because we don’t regard them as the gifts of God—
 - not just any god...
 - but gifts of the true and living God who is glorious in majesty...
 - the God who has every reason to destroy us on account of our sin and rebellion...
 - but who continues to shower us with His kindness!

- c) You can't really learn to enjoy anything as you should until you learn to receive it as a gift of God.
 - (i) You haven't begun to enjoy riches until you see them as an evidence of His abundant kindness, wisdom, power, grace, mercy and goodness!
 - A girl might like flowers just because she likes flowers...
 - But how much more she likes them if they come from a man in whom she delights!
 - There is a certain enjoyment in the flowers themselves,
 - but her joy in the flowers is nothing in comparison to the assurance they give her of the love of the one who gave them to her.
 - (ii) But there's a problem here, isn't there?
 - Is it not true that God loads both His friends and His enemies with His gracious gifts...
 - Have we not just seen that Tyre was loaded with many material blessings to their own destruction?
 - Yes, that is true,
 - but all of these material things were still a testimony of God's generous kindness and bounty that should have led them to repentance.
 - In other words, the gifts were not evil, it was their hearts that did not give thanks to God that were evil.

TRANS> So you see Christian,

- If you are going to use riches for God's glory,
 - you must first learn to enjoy them as gifts from His hand.
 - But there is also a second thing you must learn.
- b. You must learn to use your riches for doing good to others.
 - He gives them to us to give to others...
 - This is often very hard for us—
 - we have such a tendency to hang onto whatever we get.
 - And it is for this reason that 1 Tim 6:18 is sort of repetitious.
 - Paul is trying to drive it into us that our riches are rightly used and enjoyed by us when we share them with others...

- God has given them to us not only for us to enjoy, but also for us to share.

1) First, it says, “Let them do good that they may rich in good works.”

- If you have been given a lot, it is in order that you might do a lot of good with it for others!
 - God could give everyone his or her portion directly, but instead, He has chosen to give us the ability to provide for one another!
 - God has chosen to work this way in other things too...
 - For example, He could have privately revealed His word to every individual person...
 - but instead, He raised up prophets and apostles to whom He gave His word, commanding them to proclaim it to others.
 - Can you imagine what a fix we would be in if they had hoarded it for themselves?
 - Not that God would have allowed it, but you can see the point!
 - In the same way, God gives to some great wealth—and it is in order that they might do good with it for others!
 - Take a family with little children.
 - Ordinarily, God gives the parents more than they need for themselves in order that they might also provide for their children.
 - Take a wealthy business man...
 - God provides him with enough to provide for his employees and for their families!
 - And like God, he ought to give them more than just a bare subsistence.
- And of course, doing good also speaks of that very important good of supporting the worship of God.
 - That is the one that Isaiah focused on our text today.
 - How much good you do in the world when you give to support the work of gospel!
 - You cause the declaration of what God has done for sinners to be heard all over the world—so that many come to worship Him.

- 2) Second it says that the rich should “be ready to give, willing to share.”
- This speaks about our attitude
 - God loves a cheerful giver—
 - And so there needs to be a readiness and a willingness.
 - The idea here is that you ought to be eagerly looking for opportunities to give.
 - You need to cultivate an attitude that says, “Oh look, God has given me this—what good can I do with it?”
 - I know a man that heard about a seminary student who was studying in North America.
 - A member of his family was sick, but he could not afford to fly home and return again...
 - But a man who is always looking to do good, without saying a word, bought him a return ticket and presented it to him.
 - He was ready to give, he was looking for an opportunity.

TRANS> God has given you your wealth to share with others.

- 3) When riches are not used, they grow corrupt...
- If they are not used, they become like a stagnant pond—they stink and breed mosquitoes.
 - Hear what James says about those who hoard what God has given them to use.
 - James 5:2-3
 - “Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.”
 - By hoarding what ought to be given, your riches are said to be corrupted.

c. But perhaps you would say,

- 1) “Where can I get a heart to do good and to be willing to share?
 - I find that I am altogether too stingy and greedy?”
- 2) And I will tell you—it is from Jesus Christ!

- As you grow in Him, you grow in your giving.
 - You see, your giving is a reflection of how much you really regard what Jesus has done for you.
 - You either act like someone who knows you have been lavished upon with His riches,
 - or you act like someone who had been given a raw deal.
 - Your giving is like a barometer of your love for Christ.
 - You either see yourself as having been given way more than your share, or you see yourself as never having enough so that you are always groping for a little more—
 - and as soon as you get it, a little more again!
- 3) How much better it is when you are so taken with Christ that you want to give to others—just like He has given to you!
- When you are so moved and taken with His generous heart that you become generous too!
 - This is something you need to grow into as you study the love of God,
 - as you grow in the grace of God,
 - as you understand the love of the cross and the riches in glory that God has promised to you if you are in Christ Jesus.
 - You become more and more devoted to Him so that everything about you is set apart to Him.
 - God, by His grace, changed Tyre from a Harlot to a loving bride—and He will do the same for you if you look to Him.

Conclusion:

- How glad we should be that our heavenly Father profanes pompous pride.
 - Just think where we would be if He allowed pride to go on without exposing it!
 - Let us learn from His word as well as from experience to humble ourselves before Him that we might learn to glory in Him.
 - That is so much better than taking pride in our riches.