

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
God Judges Our Failure to Mourn Our Sin
Isaiah 22

In the movie *Princess Bride*, there is a character whose response to everything is, "Inconceivable." At one point another character, Inigo Montoya says, "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means." There are many words in our culture that fit that description: tolerance, acceptance, judgmental, moral, spiritual, Christian. The definitions and uses of these words in modern language are chameleon-esque, changing to fit a desired agenda, push a pop-culture narrative, or advocate for a particular lifestyle choice.

1. People tend to seek pleasure not repentance.

2. People tend to seek security in self not God.

3. People tend to seek comfort not conviction.

In Revelation 2-3, Jesus warned the church about getting complacent in their mission and in their pursuit of holiness. Believers are to set the example of what it looks like to mourn our sin and fully trust in Christ. We are to listen to the convicting voice of the Spirit within us rather than the convincing voices of the world around us. The world convinces us that our truth, our morality, our choices are fine for now, because now is all there is. The Spirit convicts us that God's truth, God's character, and God's holiness are necessary for now, because eternity is what really matters.

Reflection

In our fun-loving age, so saturated with ways to please our senses, how is the message of Isaiah 22 (When God calls you to mourn for sin, don't party instead!) a particularly needed one? Why is it hard for us to accept this message? How does James 4:9 support this message for New Testament believers? What is the significance of Paul quoting Isaiah 22 in 1 Corinthians 15:32? How do we share the gospel with people who are living for earthly pleasures? What does this chapter show about the nature of the sinful human heart, especially in the faithless preparations and celebrations of a supposed spiritual life? What are some ways that we can go deeper in repentance when the Spirit convicts us of sin? Read Psalm 139:23-24 and take some time to allow God to do what you are asking Him to do through that psalm.