

# Bible and Beer

January 5, 2021

For Baptism of the Lord (January 10, 2021)

## Isaiah 55:1-11

**55** Thus says the Lord, Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.  
**2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.  
**3** Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.  
**4** See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.  
**5** See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.  
**6** Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;  
**7** let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
**8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
**9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
**10** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

## Alternate First Reading:

### Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

**42** Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
**2** He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
**3** a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
**4** He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.  
**6** I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,  
**7** to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

### 1 John 5:1-9

**5** Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, **4** for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. **5** Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **6** This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. **7** There are three that testify: **8** the Spirit and the water and the blood,

and these three agree.<sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

## **Mark 1:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In his preaching he proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## **Reflection Questions for Small Group**

**Up till now, what has YOUR baptism meant for you, your faith and your Christian life?**

**Taking your cues from Jesus' baptism and the call in His life, what ways can you deepen your sense of call and mission in your life going forward?**

**How can Ignite Ministry assist you with that, through programs, events and opportunities: Let's Brainstorm!**