

What's Your Blood Pressure?

Missions

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Sitting in a pew on Sunday morning does not automatically mean we earn the title 'Christian.' Giving our money during the offering does not guarantee us a spot in heaven. God desires a changed heart in service to those in need.

In today's scripture, the people of Israel are most likely gathered together to begin the fast. Set during the period of the Restoration, Isaiah 56-58 highlights the oppression of the leaders of Israel. They have done well in the return from captivity and are now living well while the rest of the nation struggles. To these wealthy and entitled Isaiah speaks God's Word of condemnation in Isaiah 58:1-5. Isaiah 58:6-9a describe the type of worship God truly requires. Similar to the words in Micah 6:6-8, God desires the faithful to be out in service, not simply going to church or publicly praying and fasting.

Possible Preaching Points:

- Plan a church wide day of service in your community
- A radical concept would be to cancel worship services the following week and gather for prayer and go out into the community and serve.