

Songs:

[Only By Grace Can We Enter](#)

[Hallelujah, What a Saviour](#)

[What a Beautiful Name It Is](#)

Good morning everyone at Weardale Vineyard at this beautiful time of the year. This is the second message I have prepared for today. You ask Why? Well, I sat for a very long time typing my message, sent it off to Stephen Burton then went to bed and slept soundly, not knowing that somehow that which I had meticulously typed, saved and stored was being stolen by computer gremlins! This is not the first time for me so I have to hold up my hands and agree that I am NOT a computer buff, in fact most of the time the computer scares me! Things appear and disappear without my consent, bringing much frustration! I have ventured into programmes, since I returned home from my early morning swim today, Thursday, which I would not dare to go, just to find my message but it is nowhere to be found.

My next question to Papa was, “Did I not hear your voice? Did I not write what you wanted? I am very sorry, please will you therefore give me YOUR message for Weardale?” Now I am writing what I believe He wants so I ask your forgiveness for wasting your time Stephen.

Oddly, the same scripture is back in my heart **ISAIAH 55: 1-13** so let us see together how God is unpicking it for us today. I am just popping out for a coffee with friends and trusting Papa will reveal some pointers to me.

I am back, had a lovely coffee and chat outside in my friend’s garden, inspired to check some possibilities in the hope of finding yesterday’s message but have not got the courage to try this until I have finished what Papa wants to say now then I will go a searching!

At the beginning of Isaiah 55 God gives us this amazing invitation, if we are thirsty come to the waters, offering us His Living Water for free! Then goes on to say, if we have no money, we can “come, buy and eat, even buy wine and milk without money and without price!” Verse 1 of Isaiah 55. Can we really trust The Lord to give us this? May I suggest you try this with Him, He is so faithful, He will not let us down. During our years in Romania God provided from His Abundance for our **every need**. The beautiful thing is, when we have proven Him faithful in providing for us, then trusting Him in other areas becomes increasingly easier and exciting.

God is doing much more than providing our physical needs, He is promising food also for our souls V 2-3. And assuring us of His everlasting covenant with us – the sure mercies of David, which He has given as a witness, a leader and commander for the people V4. This is not only for our benefit, but an integral part of His plan and promise to us, declaring ‘nations we do not know, we shall call, and nations who do not know us will run to us because of the Lord our God and the Holy one of Israel V5. For He has blessed and set a seal upon us. Can you imagine this kind of fruit? As we obey Him and draw closer to Him, He does it.

V6 is a clear instruction to us to 'Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.' If we are involved in any kind of wickedness or unrighteousness, let us abandon this behaviour, seek His forgiveness and in His abundant Mercy He will fully pardon us. Verse 7. Then in Verses 8-11 God clearly enumerates His power in His thoughts and ways which are so different from our own, no matter how spiritual we may consider ourselves, that His plans do so much more than we can think or desire, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater even to the point of declaring His Word "**will not return to Him without performing that for which it was sent! Prospering in that thing for which it was sent!!**"

Can we see and appreciate that Father God wants to include ALL His Creation – Verse 12 promises us "the trees of the field will clap their hands". My imagination serves me well at times like this when I can see, in my mind's eye, thousands, even millions of trees honouring God!! It will be spectacular! Then Papa enlarges on these plans - He will cause Cypress Trees to grow in place of the thorn bush and Myrtle instead of the briar as an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off Verse 13. The leaves of the Myrtle Bush are ground down into a Healing Balm – what a privilege to be called Myrtle

As we meditate on these happenings can we take a moment to consider the birds, joyful in song and somewhere around 4<sup>th</sup>. May, we can hear the Dawn Chorus (you may sleep through it but should you need the bathroom around 4.00 am it will be worth staying awake a little longer to listen to it) This prompted my thoughts on how Nature doesn't argue with God, doesn't moan at its nakedness during the winter months, Nature stands and waits for God to prophesy leaves and blossoms - and how stunning Springtime is.

Birds have obeyed God since the days of Genesis, during the flood, a raven was sent out and stayed out, a dove was sent out and came back, staying another 7 days then off out again and coming back carrying an Olive branch indicating the flood waters had receded but it was still another 7 days before Noah opened up the Ark and allowed all the animals and humans from his family to come out of a long confinement. A Dove, the Holy Spirit, rested on Jesus when He was baptised by John. A donkey spoke and challenged the actions of Balaam.

We know the serpent spoke to Eve and Scripture is littered with many other instances of the Animal Kingdom speaking up, so I, for one, am completely at ease believing this. It is alright if you don't agree with me, you can safely have a totally different opinion, God still loves us and still works with us. However, I do believe that since I embraced this possibility, my senses and gratitude have been heightened and my pleasure levels have increased. I used to think Prince Charles was bonkers talking to plants etc. now I apologise to them if I have neglected to water them but I raise my voice in gratitude and thanksgiving for this world Papa God has allowed me to live in. Will you join me in thanking Him?

Let us pray: Father thank you that Your ways and Thoughts are so superior to ours. Thank you for allowing us into the secrets of your Kingdom. Please will you open our eyes Holy Spirit to His Beauty all around us in sight and sound and excite us with new revelation of Who You are, Who You have made us to be and tune us into your birds, animals and nature. Thank you Father God, Thank you Jesus, Thank you Holy Spirit. Amen

Have a blessed week. Love to all Florence xx