



# Do or Do Not

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(...?)





# The Isaiah Fast-How Cool?

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Cry loudly, do not hold back;  
Raise your voice like a trumpet,  
And declare to My people their transgression  
And to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> “Yet they seek Me day by day and delight to  
know My ways,

As a nation that has done righteousness  
And has not forsaken the ordinance of their  
God.

They ask Me *for* just decisions,  
*They delight in the nearness of God.*



# Doing All the Right Things?!?

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3 'Why have we fasted and You do not see?  
Why have we humbled ourselves and You do not [a]notice?'

Behold, on the day of your fast you  
find *your* desire,

And drive hard all your workers.

4 "Behold, you fast for contention and strife  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

You do not fast like *you do* today to make  
your voice heard on high.



# Let's Be Very Clear

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- 5 “Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself?  
Is it for bowing [b]one’s head like a reed  
And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD?
- 6 **“Is this not the fast which I choose,**  
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,  
To undo the bands of the yoke,  
And to let the oppressed go free  
And break every yoke?



# I'm Not Finished...

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7 “Is it not to divide your bread [c] with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 “Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. 9 “Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ **If** you remove the yoke from your midst,



# Listen When I'm Talking...

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- The [d]pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,  
**10 And if you [e]give yourself to the hungry And satisfy the [f]desire of the afflicted,**
- **Then** your light will rise in darkness  
And your gloom *will become* like midday.  
**11** "And the LORD will continually guide you,  
And satisfy your [g]desire in scorched places,  
And give strength to your bones;  
And you will be like a watered garden,



# Mercy=The Path to Revival

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And like a spring of water whose waters do not **[h]**fail.

**12** “Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins;

You will raise up the age-old foundations;

And you will be called the repairer of the breach,

The restorer of the **[i]**streets in which to dwell.



# And Another Thing-Micah 6

- ~~With what shall I come to the LORD  
And bow myself before the God on high?  
Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings,  
With yearling calves? <sup>7</sup> Does the LORD take  
delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand  
rivers of oil? Shall I present  
my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, The fruit  
of my body for the sin of my soul?~~
- **<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justice, to love [c]kindness,  
And to walk [d]humbly with your God?**



## Going After Fiona ...

- <sup>31</sup>“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.
- <sup>45</sup> Then He will answer them, **‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’**



# There Is No Try- Do It

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None of those curtail poverty, but most contribute to it by not dealing with the whole person or the root causes of poverty. What spurs and sustains poverty are broken relationships – with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. Transactional compassion doesn't build any of those relationships. Nor does it address the individual's entirety as mind, body, and spirit. Nor does it humbly dignify others by recognizing we are all in some form of poverty – whether material, spiritual, relational, or emotional. **Only churches** are uniquely positioned to attend to the whole person (mind, body, spirit) and all four key relationships on a long-term basis by welcoming them into a church family.



# Good News, YOU ARE

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- deeply loved by God, *Ephesians 3: 16-19*
- fully accepted by God *Colossians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21*
- completely and permanently forgiven by God, *John 1:29; John 3:16-18; John 19:30*
- lavishly blessed by God, *Ephesians 1:3-8*
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY *Zephaniah 3:17, Nehemiah 8:10, Hebrews 12:2*