

SERMON OUTLINE FOR AUGUST 3, 2014

“The Dance of Death”

Isaiah 55:1-5

INTRODUCTION: *In 1538 the “Dance of Death” painting made its way into the Bible . . .*

I. WE HAVE LONG HEARD THE INVITATION TO DEATH’S DANCE

- A. Isaiah echoes that invitation by asking us a penetrating question (Isaiah 55:2)
- B. Why *do* we spend so much time & money on things that are *here today & gone tomorrow*?
- C. Because of our sinful nature, that’s all we can do as we join in the dance of death

II. IN CONTRAST TO THE DANCE OF DEATH, ISAIAH GIVES VOICE TO THE LORD OF LIFE

- A. God invites all people to LIFE, not death (Isaiah 55:1)
- B. The LIFE He offers is rich & free (Isaiah 55:3)
- C. This invitation is as old as Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:9)
- D. This invitation is needed for we all have sinned & deserve to ‘dance’ with death (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

III. THE INVITATION TO THE DANCE OF LIFE IS OURS TO GIVE AWAY TO ALL PEOPLE

- A. Isaiah tells God’s people to send out the invitation to all nations (Isaiah 55:5-7)
- B. This invitation is especially given through our Lord Jesus who danced our dance with death
- C. So says St. Paul (Acts 13:26-39)
- D. So says St. John (Revelation 22:17)
- E. Our Lord Jesus is the victorious Lord of the Dance!

CONCLUSION: *The song, the video clip, our singing of the Celtic hymn: **The Lord of the Dance***



The Dance of Death

ISAIAH 55:1-5

Eve Nursing, Adam Toiling,
The Hourglass Limit of our Lives
(explained at 2:55 mark of sermon)

The Hourglass



The Dance of Death

ISAIAH 55:1-5

“The Lord of the Dance”

Sydney Carter

I danced in the morning when the world was begun
I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth

Chorus:

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

I danced on a Friday when the world turned black
It’s hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body, they thought I was gone
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on

Chorus

They cut me down and I leapt up high
I am the life that will never, never die
I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me
I am the Lord of the dance, said he

Chorus