

Isaiah 58:3–9a

3 "Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
 Why have we humbled ourselves,
 and you take no knowledge of it?"
 Behold, in the day of your fast you seek
 your own pleasure,
 and oppress all your workers.

4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to hit with a wicked fist.
 Fasting like yours this day
 will not make your voice to be
 heard on high.

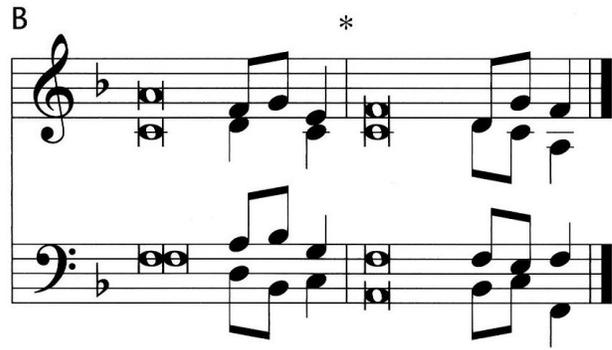
5 Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day for a person to humble himself?
 Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
 and to spread sackcloth
 and ashes under him?
 Will you call this a fast,
 and a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 "Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of wickedness,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?"

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor
 into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover him,
 and not to hide yourself
 from your own flesh?

8 Then shall your light break forth
 like the dawn,
 and your healing shall
 spring up speedily;
 your righteousness shall go before you;
 the glory of the Lord shall
 be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call,
 and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry, and he will say, "Here I am."

**Psalm 112:1–9**

1 Praise the Lord!
 Blessed is the man who | fears the Lord,*
 who greatly delights in
 his com- | mandments!

2 His offspring will be mighty | in the land;*
 the generation of the upright |
 will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches are | in his house,*
 and his righteousness endures for- | ever.

4 Light dawns in the darkness
 for the | upright;*
 he is gracious, merciful, and | righteous.

5 It is well with the man who deals
 generous- | ly and lends;*
 who conducts his affairs with | justice.

6 For the righteous will nev- | er be moved;*
 he will be remembered for- | ever.

7 He is not afraid of | bad news;*
 his heart is firm, trusting | in the Lord.

8 His heart is steady; he will not | be afraid,*
 until he looks in triumph
 on his adver- | saries.

9 He has distributed freely;
 he has given to the poor;
 his righteousness endures for- | ever;*
 his horn is exalted in | honor.

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶"For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Matthew 5:13–20

¹³[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."