

11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Spiritual

**“Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth,  
Unseen, both when we wake, and when we sleep.”**

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

When I was reflecting recently on themes such as being satisfied, coping with greed, accepting that “enough is enough”, I reacquainted myself with a few verses from the beginning of Isaiah 55. It’s about the need to find a spiritual balance in our lives.

*Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?*

The context here is the prophet reminding his people of God’s goodness. In Isaiah’s time, water and fresh bread were sold in the streets. So, his metaphor implies that someone has bought up all the water and bread that was on sale and is giving it away for nothing to anyone who’s in need. “Come!” is the call. “You don’t need any money. Take what’s here. It’s free! No strings attached.”

And the graciousness of the donor even goes beyond the bare necessities of life, the bread and water, the staples, so that what’s on offer are the specialities that people hadn’t even thought of before – luxuries, including milk, and even wine – and *still* without any cost being expected. Here is generosity of the highest order.

But there’s a message along with the free handouts. In the face of this unconditional generosity, and aware of the beneficence of his God, Isaiah asks, “Why, then, do you spend money on what is not bread and labour on what does not satisfy”? Isn’t there a spiritual dimension you’re missing out on? To use Jesus’ imagery, “Why do you store up earthly treasures, things that are corruptible, which thieves can steal? Why not give thought to higher things and not stuff that won’t last?”

I believe we are Milton’s “millions of spiritual creatures”. We are fundamentally spiritual people. Yet Isaiah is right. We still “labour on what does not satisfy” and fail to focus on deeper and longer-lasting things. So, let’s be aware of the importance of a spiritual dimension of your lives, and recognise what will ultimately be more satisfying.

### **A prayer for today**

*All this generosity, Lord, and for my benefit. So, what can I offer in return?*

*An original reflection @ Tom Gordon*

*Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>*