

## An Isaiah Response

Isaiah 6:1-8      2/3/2019

PW Emerson • Ten:27 Ministries

### Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Let's take this a piece at a time

# I GOD IS ... MAJESTIC .. MIGHTY .. GRAND ..

## Isaiah 6:1-4

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

We have an incredible picture of God!

Isaiah is describing God in these terms!

Too often we think of God as something on our to-do list, like when running errands .....

- Get Gas
- Pick up the dry cleaning
- Read a few more chapters in the bible
- Pay the electric bill
- Pray
- Do the dishes

That sort of thing.

We often think about God as something

- When we get around to it
- If we have the time

- If time permits

When we should be thinking about God as if he is the

- Creator of everything
- King of the Universe
- Savior of all mankind

Because He is!

God shouldn't be a checkmark on our to-do list;

God should be the one who defines our to-do list!

Think about all the different ways to describe God:

- Magnificent
- Majestic
- Awesome
- Larger Than Life
- King of All

Isaiah describes God in these terms and sees God this way.

Because God is to be treated this way.

Verse 5

<sup>5</sup>“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

## II WE ARE TO CONFESS OUR SINS

Isaiah is surrounded by angels and in close proximity to God.

The closer we get to God, two things happen:

- God seems more incredible – that’s why we described him as Magnificent majestic awesome etc
- Are sins seem much bigger – they stand out from God’s purity

Isaiah cried out, “Woe is me!”

I don’t know anyone today that would use that kind of language.

More likely today, people would say something to the effect of “I’m in deep doo-doo.”

When people come to me struggling with some issue of sin, I always come back to God calls us to be holy:

Meaning God has set us apart from the world

We are held to a higher standard because we know God

Don’t misunderstand me, we can’t live up to the standard God sets for us ... that’s why we need Christ in our lives!

But we have a habit of minimizing our sins

- It's just a little thing
- It's not *that* bad
- It's not affecting others ...

The most common sin people talk to me about is a struggle with porn ...usually an addiction to porn.

And almost everyone thinks is not that big of a deal ... it isn't affecting anyone else.

A piece from the book *View From the Zoo*, by Gary Richmond, sums it up:

Raccoons go through a glandular change at about 24 months. After that they often attack their owner. Since a 30-pound raccoon can be equal to a 100-pound dog in a scrap, a zoo keeper felt compelled to mention the change coming to a pet raccoon owned by a young lady named Julie. She listened politely as he explained the coming danger. He never forgot her response. "It will be different for me . . ." And she also smiled as she added, "Bandit wouldn't hurt me. He just wouldn't." Julie underwent plastic surgery just three months later for facial lacerations sustained when her adult raccoon attacked her for no apparent reason.

All too often sin comes dressed in an adorable disguise and so we play with it. How quickly we find ourselves saying, "It will be different for me."

It is important to confess our sins and that's the first thing Isaiah did.

As a side note:

It's important to notice the order because Isaiah dealt with his own sins ***FIRST***, before thinking about anyone else's' sins.

I WE RECOGNIZE GOD'S MAJESTY

II WE CONFESS OUR SINS

III GOD PURIFIES THOSE WHO REPENT

Isaiah 6:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Isaiah confessed his sins and he was purified.

When we confess our sins, God will purify us too!

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **purify us** from all unrighteousness.

In the book *The Quest For Character*, Chuck Swindoll tells of damage done to 2 works of art:

A few years ago, an angry man rushed through the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam until he reached Rembrandt's famous painting "Nightwatch." Then he took out a knife and slashed it repeatedly before he could be stopped. A short time later, a distraught, hostile man slipped into St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome with a hammer and began to smash Michelangelo's beautiful sculpture The Pieta. Two cherished works of art were severely damaged. But what did officials do? Throw them out and forget about them? Absolutely not! Using the best experts, who worked with the utmost care and precision, they made every effort to restore the treasures.

Matthew 10:29-30

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

God can take the most destroyed human and restore him to something of great majesty and value: a child of God!

Last piece from Isaiah 6

IV GOD CALLS THE PURIFIED TO SERVICE

Isaiah 6:8

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

This part is beautiful!

- When God calls most people, in and out of the Bible, the reaction is usually – you don’t want me.

Isaiah is the know-it-all whose hand shot up instantly!

WOULD THAT WE HAD THAT ENTHUSIASM ABOUT SERVING GOD!

John Kenneth Galbraith, in his autobiography, *A Life in Our Times* illustrates the devotion of Emily Gloria Wilson, his family's housekeeper: It had been a wearying day, and I asked Emily to hold all telephone calls while I had a nap. Shortly thereafter the phone rang. Lyndon Johnson was calling from the White House. "Get me Ken Galbraith. This is Lyndon Johnson." "He is sleeping, Mr. President. He said not to disturb him." "Well, wake him up. I want to talk to him." "No, Mr. President. I work for him, not you. When I called the President back, he could scarcely control his pleasure. "Tell that woman I want her here in the White House."

Who are we working for? Business? Things of this world?

Or are we going to serve the God of the universe?

Every prophet in the bible has their calling – a piece when God calls them out to do ... something special.

This piece is Isaiah's calling.

He wasn't raised to be a prophet by birth.

God called him to that task!

God calls people today and most say

- it's not me.
- That job would be better done by someone else.

That attitude doesn't just show a lack of confidence about ourselves.

It shows a lack of confidence about God ... as if God made a mistake!

I have seen MANY people to whom God is calling, God is reaching out to do this or that.

And they push it aside.

Don't wonder why the world is like this. Let's step it up!!

When we die, we will not be asked:

“How much have you gotten?”

But rather “How much have you given?”

Not “How much have you won?”

But rather “How much have you done?”

Not “How much have you saved?”

But rather “How much have you sacrificed?”

We will be asked, “How much have you loved and served,” not “How much were you honored?”

Nathan C. Schaeffer

## CONCLUSION

Do you want a vision for how God can use you this year? Isaiah’s call from God is the same for us – just a different time and place.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

A reporter from the US News and World Report in 1985 asked Mother Teresa why she made the move from a successful 27 year teaching career with upper class children in India to working with the outcasts of the nation. Mother Teresa’s answer was simple. " God did not call me to be successful, only faithful.”

God is ready to use you this year.

Are you ready?