

The year 739 B.C. brought change among the Hebrews.

In the year that King Uzziah died...

Isaiah 6:1

Uzziah had seen prosperity in his land, and the good life had turned people's attention away from the Lord. Prosperity has the tendency to turn our attention from God to the blessings God gives. The loss of their king initiated uncertainty regarding the future.

1. Consider God's Reality

One afternoon Isaiah went to the Temple to worship. God broke through the prophet's habitual worship, and the reality of God carried him to a deeper understanding of his life and work.

I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 6:1-3

How do you think you would react if suddenly God met you in this place and all you could see was the majestic presence of God?

We would discover that hearing about God and encountering the reality of God to be very different experiences. The awesome presence of God startled Isaiah. This was no place for one's divided attention. Nothing but the Lord stood before him.

2. Confess Your Rebellion

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe is 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."

Isaiah 6:4,5

When Isaiah saw the Lord, he was consumed by his own sin. What was Isaiah's sin? How did his self-centeredness push God out of the center of his life? Do we find a key to understanding this word in an earlier verse in *Isaiah*? *Stop bringing meaningless offerings.*

Isaiah 1:13

Do you think Isaiah was living below his vows of commitment? Are you? Did Isaiah see the shallowness of his personal commitment?

You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them to God. Then God will show mercy on you.

Proverbs 28:13 Good News Bible

If we look at this passage and feel it does not apply to us, we fail to understand that with God there are no little people, no little places. Everyone is expected to walk in holiness.

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 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 6:6, 7

True repentance includes pain over the sin in one's life.

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Isaiah 1:18

3. Claim Your Responsibility

Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

Isaiah 6:1-8

God didn't ask the question until Isaiah was cleansed. Why? He felt as I, all his life Isaiah had believed in God, but now Isaiah knew God.

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

When God becomes real to his people, his people will face anything for God. But the hearts of the people are *calloused...their ears dull... (6:10).*

The call of God is not to preach, teach or talk of the cross but to experience the cross.

In today's world, we are surrounded by people searching for meaning in many wrong places. They do not always respond to the hope we find in God as we would like. Nevertheless, God calls on us to "clean up our act" and carry his light wherever we are. How will you answer the question, "*Whom shall I send?*"

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