

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Isaiah's Commission—Isaiah 6:1–13

Topics:

Ambassadors, Atonement, Awe, Blindness, Fear, Forgiveness, Glory, Guilt, Hardheartedness, Healing, Heart, Holiness, Hope, Renewal, Repentance, Sin, Understanding

Open It

1. What are some of the reasons people volunteer at church?
2. When have you tried hard to communicate something important to an unresponsive audience?

Isaiah 6:1–13 (ESV)

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

⁹And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

¹⁰Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

¹¹Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,

¹²and the LORD removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

¹³And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.

Explore It

3. When was Isaiah granted his vision of the Lord? (6:1)
4. How did Isaiah describe the awe-inspiring sights around God's throne? (6:1–4)
5. How did Isaiah see himself once he had been exposed to God's glory? (6:5)
6. What provision was made for Isaiah's guilt in the presence of a holy God? (6:6–7)
7. How did Isaiah respond to God's call? (6:8)
8. In what unusual way did God state the message Isaiah was to take to Israel? (6:9–10)
9. What did Isaiah ask God about his commission? (6:11)
10. What was sobering about God's response to Isaiah's question? (6:11–13)
11. What was hopeful about God's response to Isaiah's question? (6:11–13)

Get It

12. Why is it almost impossible, or intolerable, for a human being to stand before a holy God?
13. How can we follow Isaiah's example of availability to God?
14. How can we keep our spiritual senses attuned to God's voice?

Apply It

15. What can you do today to make yourself ready to be God's messenger to others?
16. With whom could you be accountable to revere the holiness of God in your daily life?