

Isaiah 6 – The True King is Holy

What comes into your mind when you think of holiness? OR
 What character traits do you most admire and despise in others/yourself (e.g. lying, generosity)

Skim over Isaiah 1-5 then read Isaiah 6v1-13 a few times.

What is happening here? How does it fit/flow/contrast with what has come before? Are there any things you don't understand, or any immediate questions? Why does Isaiah specifically say that it is the year that King Uzziah died? (See 2 Chronicles 26 for some background)

Look at the words used to describe the scene (throne, exalted, holy, glory, foundations shake, smoke). What do they mean...what pictures do they conjure up on your head? What is your response?

[It may help to write all the words/phrases on a sheet then write/draw around each one the words/phrases/ pictures they conjure up]

Isaiah suddenly realises who he is, and says 'Woe is me'. What does this actually mean? What words would we use to express this feeling? Why is that his response?

Isaiah realised that as a sinful person, in God's holy presence he was a dead man. Any encounter with God should lead to an awareness of our uncleanness. Why do we not take sin seriously? What are the consequences before God's throne? (Hebrews 12v14)

Reflect...

In what areas of your life is God's holiness is not seen?

What steps do you, with God's help (and others?) need to take to remedy that?

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How does God respond to Isaiah's understanding of the situation? Why do you think he uses a coal touching his lips? What is the consequence for Isaiah in his relationship to God? (Compare with verse 5)

God revealed His glory in Jesus, and Jesus is the sacrifice which was made to take away our guilt and atone for our sin, so we can not just stand in the presence of a Holy God but also be adopted as His children, to play our part in declaring His worth, in His eternal purposes of calling others (the nations - Isaiah 2.2-4) to enjoy the life he offers

Take some time to respond in worship.....

The mission (Isaiah 6.9-13)

Isaiah responds to God's call. What is his mission? What do you think it means? How is it connected to his experience of God in v1-8?

[Note: Isaiah's message certainly wasn't cryptic – it was obvious, but the important thing is the response it elicits]

How is our experience of God connected to our heart for the lost? What do we learn from Isaiah about the responses we should expect?

Summarise

What have you learnt about God and how He works

If this passage is a pattern of service.....what are the stages God takes Isaiah through to prepare him for service? Where are you in this pattern?

[Note this is often a cycle, we need to be brought back to various stages again and again]

Who are the people God has called you to speak His truth to?