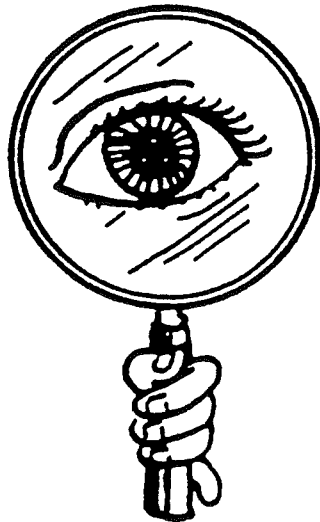


I Saw The Lord

(How You And I Are Changed In The Presence Of God)
Isaiah 6:1-9



THE PROCESS OF CHANGE

- ◆ Isaiah was Refocused (He saw the Lord)
- ◆ Isaiah was Reduced (He saw himself)
- ◆ Isaiah was Rebuilt (He cleansed himself)
- ◆ Isaiah was Recommissioned (He surrendered himself)

“Mine Eyes Have Seen The King, The Lord Of Hosts” (Isaiah 6:5)

Bill Kirk

“I SAW THE LORD”

Text: Isaiah 6:1-9

Subject: “What Happens When We See Jesus”

Introduction

Illustration: Not long ago I walked into McDonalds in the morning to get a cup of coffee. A young man was outside with a sponge, a pole and a bucket of water solution to clean the windows at McDonalds. (why?) Because when the glass gets dirty, vision becomes impaired.

Illustration: Yesterday, walking out of the Binghamton Regency, a young man had a bottle of windex and some paper towels (why?) Because the door glass was dirty and your vision was impaired when looking out.

Illustration: Last night while driving to Grippen Park, I had to use the windshield wipers in the mist and rain (why?) Because my vision was impaired and I couldn't see.

It's No Secret Today:

- #1. That multitudes of people are looking.
- #2. That many are not sure of what they're looking for.
- #3. That a maze of things have disguised what the people of God really want to see.

(What Is It We Are Looking For?)

- ◆ The manifest presence of God in our midst.
- ◆ The glory of God in changing us into His likeness.
- ◆ The power of God to break every power of sin.
- ◆ That vision of Jesus that reduces us and prepares us for even greater service.

Our Setting In Isaiah 6 Is Clear:

1. Uzziah had reigned for 52 years of prosperity.
2. He was victorious in war and successful in industry.
3. One day he dies and his son (age 25) takes over the throne.
4. Ominous war clouds were gathering in the north, threatening to drift into Judah.
5. The people were in mourning and Isaiah was facing some anxious days ahead.
6. Like a wise man or woman, Isaiah takes his anxious thoughts and enters into the sanctuary.
7. And, in the midst of any ordinary day, Isaiah sees what we can see.

- ◆ Isaiah was participating as an official court prophet in the temple ceremonies.
- ◆ He was standing with the priests, gazing through the open doors of the sanctuary.
- ◆ Smoke from the incense altar was ascending before the veil of the temple.
- ◆ And on this day, Isaiah sees something that ministers to us all.

Question: What did Isaiah see?

Question: What was the meaning of what he saw?

Question: What's it have to do with you and me?

Question: And, what difference does it make in your life and mine today?

(Discover Isaiah's Process Of Change)

I. Isaiah Was Refocused (He saw the Lord)

(v.1) "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord".

Question: What's the big deal about the timing of Isaiah seeing Jesus?

Answer: The big deal is, if the throne of Israel had not been empty, Isaiah would not have seen the throne in heaven.

(What A Discovery Here)

- ◆ That our losses, our sorrows, our pains, our disappointments have an earthly mission, (to reveal to us the Lord on high).
- ◆ The highest mission and outcome of all of our delays, detours and disappointments, (is to lead us face to face with Jesus).
- ◆ When Uzziah dies, the King of Glory becomes visible to remove Isaiah's anxious moments.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The message to us in all of our pains and griefs is "Come up hither" and "Seek the face of God".

Fact: Isaiah is outside the temple near the altar.

Fact: The altar of sacrifice stood in front of the temple.

Fact: The veil separating the holy place from the most holy place was withdrawn.

Fact: Isaiah has a full view of the mercy seat.

Fact: And God opens the veil for Isaiah and you and me today.

(What Do We See?)

#1. We See Jesus Exalted (v. 1)

- ◆ He is sitting upon a throne.
- ◆ He is high and lifted up.
- ◆ His train (or robe) fills the temple. (What's It All Mean?)

1. Sitting on the throne (speaks of Jesus as King).
2. High and lifted up (speaks of Jesus in His Majesty).
3. His train or robe (speaks of the dignity of office).

Illustration: Oriental rulers and monarchs were characterized by 2 things:

#1. Flowing Robes (and) #2. Being Seated

(Jesus Exalted Means)

- ◆ He is exalted and reigning over everything that touches your life and mine this morning.

#2. We See Jesus Reverenced (v. 2)

- ◆ Jesus is encompassed by Seraphims. ◆ Seraphims are angelic beings. ◆ "Six wings" represent,
 - #1. The speed with which they move (and)
 - #2. Their willingness and readiness to do the will of God.

(What Are The Angels Doing?)

(v. 2) "Covering their face and covering their feet". (why?) (one reason)

- ◆ To reveal to us the reverence that takes place in the presence of God.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If holy angels bow down (and they are perfect) how do we respond when we come into God's presence? ...instead of rushing in thoughtlessly or irreverently,
- ◆ We draw nigh God's way - with humility, reverence, and awesome expectation.

#3. We See Jesus Holy (v. 3)

"And one cried to the other, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts".

Question: What are the angels saying?

Answer: Holy, Holy, Holy

(What's The Result?)

(v. 4) "And the door posts moved at the voice of him that cried".

Fact: There was a tremor or percussion, a sense of awe, and evidence of attention.

(“The Door Posts Moved” Means:)

- #1. Holiness always produces a sense of awe (not some football game mentality in church).
- #2. Holiness always results in a lasting impression when we embrace the presence of God.

(The Door Posts Moving At His Voice Means:)

- 1. Internal change 2. Lasting impression 3. Deep respect 4. Genuine revival
- #1. Isaiah was refocused (He saw the Lord)

II. Isaiah Was Reduced (He saw himself)

Question: What happens when we experience the manifest presence of God?

Answer: We see ourselves. (v. 5)

(v. 5) "Woe is me, for I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips"

Question: What does the phrase "Woe Is Me" mean?

Answer: It means to fill with over whelming conviction of my own unworthiness. **(Repeat)**

- ◆ "I am undone" (means): "I am pierced through to the heart in the presence of a holy God.

Fact: When I compare myself with other people, I can pat myself on the back.

Fact: But when I see the Lord:

I am pierced (not proud) I am melted (not macho) I am broken (not brazen)
I am humbled (not haughty) I am reduced to take inventory and see what is missing?

- ◆ When Isaiah saw the Lord he was disturbed.
- ◆ When Job saw the Lord - "I repent in dust and ashes".
- ◆ When Ezekiel saw the Lord "I fell upon my face".
- ◆ When Daniel saw the Lord - "I confessed and humbled myself".
- ◆ When John saw the Lord - "I fell at his feet as dead".

Question: Why must we see the Lord? **Answer:** So we can then, see ourselves.

Question: Why must we see ourselves? **Answer:** So we can experience the next step...

#1. Isaiah was refocused (He saw the Lord)

#2. Isaiah was reduced (He saw himself)

III. Isaiah Was Rebuilt (He cleansed himself)

(v. 6) "Then flew one of the Seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand".

(What's The Process Of Lasting Change?)

#1. First There Is Fire

"Then flew one of the Seraphims unto me" means:

◆ The Lord sends the Holy Spirit to convict us. (Why?)

"Having a live coal in his hand" (Or) A hot stone off of the altar of burnt offering.

Question: Why the live coal of fire?

Answer: Because fire is to cleanse us, consume us and change us!

(Not only is there fire)

#2 Secondly There Is Forgiveness

(v. 7) "Lo, this has touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away.

- (Whats It mean?)
1. It means that Isaiah's consciousness of guilt is taken away.
 2. It means Isaiah's condemnation is removed.
 3. It means Isaiah's past record of sin is clean, clear and no longer against him.

(Notice The Words In (v. 7) "The Lord Touched Me")

(Why?)

◆ To remove whatever obstacle that stood between Isaiah and the Lord. (I repeat)

#3. Thirdly There Is Freedom

(v. 7) "And thy sin is purged"

Fact: "Iniquity taken away" (means:) A clear conscience, no guilt, right standing with God.

Fact: But "Thy sin is purged" means much more:

- ◆ The word purged (means:) "Removed"
- ◆ The word purged (means:) "No longer around"
- ◆ The word purged (means:) "Gone for good"
- ◆ The word purged (means) "Powers broken by a greater Power"

(In (v. 7) "Thine Iniquity Is Purged" Has Power Today)

Question: What does God reveal to Isaiah and you and me?

Answer: That God has the power and legal authority to remove every besetting sin.

(v. 7 Is For Now)

1. Thine iniquity (sin) is purged!
2. Thine alcohol addiction is taken away!
3. Thine drug addiction is taken away!
4. Thine grip of pornography is taken away!
5. Thine tobacco habit is taken away!
6. Thine evil imaginations are taken away!
7. Thine anger and bitterness is taken away!
8. Thine distance from God is taken away!
9. Thine dryness and fearfulness is taken away!
10. Thine murmuring and complaining is taken away!

(How Pastor?) ◆ By the power of the fire of the Holy Spirit!

Illustration: I know AA says: "Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic"

But God says: "Thine iniquity is taken away"!!!

Fact: When God says "Gone" (He means "gone")

Fact: When God says "Removed" (He means "removed")

IV. Isaiah Was Recommissioned (He surrendered himself)

(v. 8) "I heard the voice of the Lord"

- ◆ "But pastor, "I've slipped too far"
 "I've sinned too much"
 "I've been too bad"
 "I've gone to deep"
 "I can't hear God speak to me"

(These Are All Lies From Satan)

- ◆ Isaiah thought his ministry was over!
- ◆ Isaiah thought he was too bad to be changed!
- ◆ Isaiah thought he was too tough for God!
- ◆ Isaiah thought he was too far from God!

(But God Has A Message)

- ◆ (v. 9) "Go and tell Isaiah"

(Whats it mean?)

- ◆ It means that God never gave up on Isaiah (and God hasn't given up on you).
- ◆ It means God had something for Isaiah to do (and God has something for you to do).
- ◆ It means whoever you are (and wherever you are) God has it in His mind to recommission you for His wonderful purpose!
- ◆ It means God has come to you to embrace you (not resist you).

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor