

Isaiah 6

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- We've all been humbled in one way or another in life
 - If you haven't – are you really a Christian? I would argue no
 - To be a Christian, you must have had to been humbled at some point in your life
 - Luke 9:23-24 – *"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.'"*
 - The Christian life is not something you can do if you are still serving yourself
 - You have to deny yourself daily
 - "I don't want to serve Christ today – I really want to this or that – whatever pleases me and take the day off from being a Christian"
 - That is not your choice to make if you want to be a Christian and inherit eternal life
 - Technically, Christ had a choice
 - Matthew 26:53 – *"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"*
 - But did He really? Christ knew that He didn't and His actions reflected that
 - We technically have that choice to make to, but do we really?
 - I think you and I both know the answer to that – if Christ had no choice, then why are we tempted sometimes to think whether or not you and I have that choice today
 - Matthew 11:29-30 – *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*
 - When yoking oxen, the stronger oxen is placed on the inside position
 - This allows the stronger oxen to pull the bulk of the weight while the weaker oxen is placed on the outside to ensure balance
 - Jesus is saying that He is the stronger oxen here
 - He will do and has already done the heavy lifting – you just need to tag along
 - It's a light load in the sense that Christ has already done the hard part – but we must choose to be yoked with Him or He's going to leave us behind
 - So for this and numerous other Scriptures, I would argue that if you have not been humbled, you cannot be a Christian, because to be a Christian, you must submit yourself to a greater cause
 - There's something greater than this life and if you want to be a part of it, you must give up your life for the brief time that God has given us to walk this earth where we have that choice to make
- Isaiah realized this in Isaiah chapter 6
 - He realized that there was something greater than himself or any of his futile desires
 - Look back at this from the 2025 view: what if Isaiah wanted to pursue his own interests in life?
 - What if he wanted to pursue some sort of an earthly occupation?

- Nothing wrong with that of itself (you and I have done the same thing) – we have to pay for things, that’s just the way it is
- But if Isaiah would have allowed that to get in his way of serving God, we wouldn’t know Isaiah
- Isaiah realized that only in God are men relevant – we are not relevant on our own and we never will be
- Think of all the presidents of the US over the course of history – how much “relevance” they must have had during their time, however it’s 2025 – can you remember all the presidents’ names? Much less what they did?
- Only in God are men relevant
- Isaiah was a prophet of God
 - His writings in the book of Isaiah actually make up one of the 5 major prophets along with Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel
 - These may be considered major prophets today, but that is only due to the length of the writings
 - What we consider the minor prophets – they had a message from God as well, and I think we all realize that any message from God is critical (James 2:10)
 - So Isaiah was not major in the sense of quality or anything like that – simply because we have much more of his writings than we do of the minor prophets
 - Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Isaiah 1:1)
 - Uzziah – 2 Chronicles 26 (righteous)
 - Jotham – 2 Chronicles 27 (righteous)
 - Ahaz – 2 Chronicles 28 (evil)
 - Hezekiah – 2 Chronicles 29 (righteous)
 - 3 of the 4 kings he prophesied for were righteous, so I believe it is a safe assumption to make that Isaiah was pretty influential with his prophesies from God
 - Though he prophesied during the fall of Israel to Assyria, he predominantly prophesied to the kingdom of Judah (all the kings mentioned above were of Judah)
 - Remember, Assyria was a powerful world empire at this time
 - Israel fell to them in 2 Kings 17 during the reign of Hoshea
 - The king of Judah at this time was Ahaz (2 Kings 17)
 - Assyria was a growing world power at this time and they even threatened Judah & Jerusalem at this time – but that didn’t work out (2 Kings 17-19)
 - Babylon and Judah were on good terms during the time of Isaiah’s prophesying (2 Kings 20), however Isaiah did use this as an opportunity to write of Judah’s future captivity at the hands of Babylon (Isaiah 39)
 - However, his name means “The Lord Saves” and it is of no coincidence that he not only wrote of the deliverance of Judah from Babylon’s hands in chapters 40-41, but he also wrote of the deliverance of men everywhere in probably the most famous chapter of Isaiah – chapter 53
 - Deliverance by the hands of Jesus Christ, our Lord
 - On a personal note, Isaiah had at least 2 sons (7:3, 8:3) and it is purely Jewish tradition that he was very brutally sawed in half during the reign of Manasseh

- That is purely tradition, so take it for what it's worth
- However, we do know that Manasseh shed so much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another (2 Kings 21:16) and this type of death is specifically mentioned of those who were faithful in Hebrews 11:37, so there may very well be some truth to that
- And we seem to read of his start in Isaiah 6
- Vs 1-4
 - Here, we read of Isaiah's vision
 - He sees the Lord sitting on a throne with the train of His robe filling the temple
 - Sounds very similar to what John saw in Revelation 4:2
 - *"Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald."*
 - Imagine what Isaiah must be seeing in this moment – the glory that is before him
 - Think of how prestigious it is to see the White House in all it's glory – I'm sure it is nothing compared to what some of the ancient throne rooms looked like in Isaiah's day, but try to think of it that way
 - I think there is a very good reason that we cannot physically see God today
 - Go with me here, hypothetically for a moment
 - 1 – we would die (Exodus 33:20)
 - 2 – we would be in so much awe, that we would literally have no choice but to submit to God
 - And God doesn't want that – He doesn't want us to submit to Him because we have to
 - He wants us to realize that we need to submit to Him without seeing it physically
 - He wants us to walk by faith and not necessarily by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7, John 20:29)
 - The glory of God is something that you and I cannot fathom (2 Corinthians 12:4)
 - But this is what we strive to see someday – and through the sacrifice of God's Son, we all have that hope
 - Not only that, but Isaiah sees multiple seraphim
 - These seraphim are described as having 6 wings
 - Their voice was so powerful that the doors were shaken and smoke filled the room
 - A call back to the significance of God's descent upon Mount Sinai in Exodus 19:18-20
 - These beings are not called seraphims in Ezekiel 1:5-28, Ezekiel 10:20, nor Revelation 4:6-8 (4 living creatures) – but they seem to have a resemblance to the creatures described in Isaiah 6
 - I am convinced that all of these references are speaking of the same creatures

- But regardless, these seraphim had quite the presence
 - Much more so than any man
 - We all know people who have prominent voices – when they talk, naturally you are forced to stop talking
 - But their voices do not physically shake rooms – these seraphims were a sight to behold
 - And even they had to cover their face, because like us humans – apparently even they could not look at God in all of His glory
 - Now think of that – these heavenly beings in all their glory that is described for us here – even they are of no comparison to the glory of God
- Notice the seraphims' response to God
 - *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"*
 - Similar words are uttered in Revelation 4:8
 - Even these creatures in all of their glory described for us here fall down in worship to God
 - How much more so should you and I
 - God instructs us to worship and based on the examples we have, we do so on the first day of each week
 - This is our dedicated time to meet together as a church and show our love to God in the form of this worship to Him
 - We cannot let the things of this life distract us from our purpose of being here – to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)
 - Our minds should be upon glorifying God
 - That's what was on the mind of these creatures
 - They submitted to God, so we have no excuse (Romans 12:1-2)

○ Isaiah realizes this in vs 5-7

• Vs 5-7

- Here, we read of **Isaiah's realization**
- Isaiah sees all of this and he is completely and absolutely humbled
- *"Woe is me, for I am undone!"*
- My eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts, and I am nothing but a man with unclean lips surrounded by people of unclean lips as well
- James 4:10 – *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."*
- Matthew 23:12 – *"And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*
- Isaiah is in the presence of the Lord and he says "Lord, I do not belong here"
 - Much like Peter after the miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5
 - *"Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."* (vs 5)
 - Lord, we've been fishing all night with no success whatsoever
 - But at Jesus' word, both boats were filled with fish to the point that they were sinking
 - And Peter replies *"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*

- Peter did not deserve to be in His presence
- Isaiah did not deserve to be in His presence
- You and I do not deserve to be in His presence
- But the beautiful thing is: God wants you there
- John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
- You can be the most esteemed man on this earth, yet before God you are nothing more than a pile of filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6)
- Without him, you and I are nothing
- Matthew 21:44 – *“And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”*
 - If you submit your life to God (Romans 12), if you submit your life to Christ – then your former life will be gone
 - But losing your former way of living is but a small price to pay when the alternative is a lack of submission that will ultimately lead to your complete and total decimation
 - If you do not submit, Christ’s words will grind you to powder
- In the presence of the Lord and faced with the choice to submit to him or walk away, Isaiah realized that he didn’t deserve to be there – he had unclean lips
- But his lips were purged of sin
 - The seraphim took a coal from the altar and with that, Isaiah was clean
- You and I are no different
- We were dead in our trespasses, we once walked according to this world, we lived in disobedience, we conducted ourselves in the lusts of this world, we were children of wrath (Ephesians 2)
- Ephesians 2:4-5 – *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),...”*
- You and I need to come to the same realization that Isaiah did
- We haven’t seen the vision like Isaiah saw it, but we have the written Scripture that testifies of God and His glory – and we should fall on our knees and beg for mercy in response to it
- When faced with this choice, let’s continue reading Isaiah’s response
- Vs 8-13
 - The voice of the Lord is calling here – *“Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”*
 - And Isaiah makes the right choice
 - He realizes that God’s will is inevitable and he can either decide to come aboard or get run over
 - So here we read of **Isaiah’s commitment**
 - Like Isaiah, we are faced with the same choice
 - We can either present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God
 - Or we can be conformed to the patterns of this world
 - But if you want to be what is good, acceptable, and perfect in the eyes of the Lord – you know what your decision must be

- And Isaiah did not fail to heed this calling
- He was willing and eager to speak on the Lord's behalf
- And what was Isaiah told to tell the people?
 - *"Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive."*
 - A statement that is quoted by Jesus after the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:14-15, Mark 4:12, Luke 8:10)
 - It's very fitting because in the parable of the sower, the seed was thrown everywhere – good soil and bad soil alike
 - It is not our jobs to pre-determine how others will respond to the gospel and then base whether or not we teach them off of our pre-determined judgment – it's our job to spread the seed – and the receiver can do what he wills with it
 - But the sad truth is that most will not accept the message – to them, it is not understandable
 - Not because they can't understand – but because they won't understand
- Most would have taken the vision that Isaiah saw and ran away in fear
- Most take the word of God today and do nothing with it out of ignorance and foolishness because they simply refuse to understand that only in Christ can we be saved (Acts 4:12)
- And how long are we to preach this message?
 - *"Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate."*
 - Isaiah – you are to preach until I (God) bring my judgment upon Judah and their beloved city of Jerusalem in the form of the Babylonians
 - Isaiah never saw that day – Isaiah died long before that day came (~150 years or so before Babylon came)
 - So Isaiah – you are to preach this message for the rest of your life
- I think you and I realize the parallels
- You and I must preach this until there is nobody left to preach to – in other words, you will be preaching this for the rest of your life
- Matthew 28:19-20 – *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen"*
- Utter and complete destruction await those who do not submit their lives to God
- And if our preaching saves but 1 – it will be worth it
- Isaiah's preaching and prophesying saved Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20
 - Hezekiah was a righteous king and I think that's in no small part thanks to Isaiah's willingness to deliver God's messages
 - It saved Hezekiah from the wrath of Assyria – the same wrath that Israel was not spared from in 2 Kings 17
 - And it saved Hezekiah's physical life in 2 Kings 20
 - Hezekiah was given 15 extra years to live – to a man dying, that's an eternity
- But there's a literal eternity awaiting you and I, and anyone else who will accept it
 - So we have some work to do

- I think you'll agree with me when I say that it is in your best interest and in my best interest that we do it
 - Because to rest implies that you have worked (Hebrews 3-4)
 - And if you don't work, you will not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- If you're not a Christian, the plan of salvation is simple
- **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
 - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
- **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16*
- **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10*
- **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3*
 - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38*
 - Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*