

## A Trek Through Isaiah 10 - Is 6:1-13

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Prayer

**Introduction (to 9:35)**

For today

- 6:1-13 Isaiah's atonement and calling

## No longer walk as the Gentiles do (to 9:40)

Elements of worship: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

Eph 4:17-19 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 **They have become callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

- callous
  - Thick, hard, unfeeling pad built up from long resistance to an irritant
  - Pr 30:20 This is the way of an adulteress:  
she eats and wipes her mouth  
and says, "I have done no wrong."
    - Picture of an amoral woman: no morals.
    - eats and wipes her mouth. Heb idiom for sexual activity.
    - Once a young girl, innocent. Now experienced and habitual in sin.
    - First few times, felt the shame in her conscience. No longer any concern.
    - Note not gender-specific.
  - Acts 26:14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'
    - Paul before his conversion.
    - Persecuted the church.
    - Hurt when he was pricked by his conscience.
    - He resisted.
    - The Lord intervened and saved him.
  - Symptoms
    - Once a agging conscience but now Insensitivity
  - Rx: softened with oil
    - Is 1:6 ...bruises and sores  
and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up  
or softened with oil.
      - Speaking of unrepentant Judah
      - Oil = HS
  - Be willing to be softened.

## Context

- Ch 1 is an overview of his message
- Ch 2-5 describe the situation at his call, ending with grace exhausted.
- Ch 6 describes Isaiah's atonement and calling

## 6:1-4 Isaiah's vision

Isa 6:1-4 In 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. (2) Above 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. (3) And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (4) And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

The year King Uzziah died.

- Good king. Long reign.
- Near the end of his reign, trespassed in the temple and was made a leper (unclean).
- To Isaiah, the king symbolized the nation
- End of Judah's expansion and prosperity.
- Start of national decline.
- Assyria increasing. Rome founded.

I saw the LORD

- Theophany: pre-incarnate Christ.
  - Joh 12:41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.
- sitting upon a throne. Sovereign. LORD: Adonai. King and Judge.
- high and lifted up. Exalted.
- and the train of his robe filled the temple.
  - Over all.
  - Touching every part of His creation.
- A ministry of sovereignty & judgment.

## Seraphim

- Lit “burning ones”. Fire a symbol of holiness.
- Above Him. Standing ready to serve.
- Wings covering face. God too holy to look upon.
- Wings covering feet. Perhaps indicating humility: not choosing their own path.
- Ears not covered: hear the word of God.
- Wings flew. In service
- Holy, holy, holy.
  - Separate from the created.
  - Separate from sin.
  - Heb repeat for emphasis. Only 3x in Heb Scriptures = super-superlative.
  - A complete description of God.
  - Trinity.
- Whole earth is full of His glory.
  - God’s glory shown in the display of His attributes. Declarative glory.
  - Display in creation is sufficient so people are without excuse
    - Rom 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Foundations shook...house filling with smoke.

- A picture of awesome majesty.. Smoke often accompanied the presence of God.
- Excludes Isaiah from the temple.

### **6:5 Isaiah's reaction**

Is 6:5 And 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!"

- Broken over his own sin. Heb: cut off. Unclean lips. Unable to praise God as the Seraphim were doing.
- Broken over Judah's sin. Identified with his people. The entire nation is unfit to praise God.
- Covenant God and Creator

### **6:6-7 Isaiah's atonement**

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

- Isaiah is helpless.
- God takes the initiative; nothing done by Isaiah.
- Burning. Action of HS.
- From the altar. From the place of atonement.
- Touched my mouth. Act is symbolic. Stone & fire cannot remove sin.
- said. Isaiah is told that his guilt is taken away. YOUNG Words convey the meaning of the act.
- your guilt is taken away. Declared righteous.
  - Col 2:13-14 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- your sin atoned for.
  - Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

## 6:8 Call and response

And 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."

- Heard... Said. Reconciliation. Isaiah, once far off, is now near; was silent, now can speak.
  - Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- Whom shall I send. God speaks in Isaiah's hearing. A mission designated for him.
- For us. The Trinity.
- The response of true faith
  - Conviction of sin
  - Understanding of salvation
  - Willingness to go
- As David when his sin with Bathsheba was forgiven.
  - Ps 51:13-15 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

## 6:9-10 Isaiah's mission

Isa 6:9-10 And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' (10) Make 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."

- Go, and say. Speak God's word. What a prophet does.
- to this people. No longer "My people".
- Isaiah would bring God's word to the people.
- He would bring light but the effect of light on unregenerate hearts would be hardening.
- The very truth which could save them would prove to harden them past the point of no return.
- Isaiah is God's means to harden the people. It is time for them to be banished.
- Here is God's election: some He chooses to save; they love Him and come to Him. Those not chosen hate the light and flee from Him.

### 6:11-13 Isaiah's concern for his people

Isa 6:11-13 Then 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, (12) and the LORD removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. (13) And 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.

- Question: How long?
  - Isaiah's concern for his people.
  - Here is the problem faced by all true ministers of God: (1) faithfulness requires a clear presentation of the entire word of God (2) affection toward the hearers must bring gentleness and compassion but must not prevent the giving of the whole message. False compassion that avoids hard issues is self-serving. Genuine love demands the entire truth.
- God's response
  - Until (1) Land desolate.(2) People removed.
  - Then burned again
  - Remnant left
- Holy seed. True believers.

Isaiah's personal experience illustrates a theme that he will develop below: the believing remnant.

- King Uzziah died as an outcast leper. He symbolizes a nation that had received God's word and rejected it, and are now cursed and separated from God.
- But, as with Isaiah, within the nation there would be a believing remnant that would accept God's word and live by faith. For them, there would be light beyond the coming darkness.

### **Worship (to 10:15)**

1. We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage. Here are the topics:
  - a. Sovereign and holy 6:1-4
  - b. Saved 6:5-7
  - c. Sent 6:8-13
2. Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe.
2. In your group, discuss your passage and identify
  - Something about God that you see in the passage
  - The effect that this view of God has upon you.
  - A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.
3. Each group will report to the class what they found.

Caution: Please focus on personal effects and responses.

- 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

For next week: Is 7:1 - 8:8

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