

The Responses to God's Holiness

Text: Isaiah 6:5-13

Date: 8-2-20 Outdoor Service at Brink's home 10:30 pm

The trajectory of Isaiah's life was no doubt forever changed by the vision of God that day. We also have hopefully come to a place where we have truly encountered God. How has this life-changing gospel decision affected your life?

I. Isaiah humbly confesses his sin before the Lord (Isa. 6:5).

The contrite heart of the prophet.

The effect on Isaiah of a thrice holy God is unmistakable. As Isaiah looked at God, he saw God's holiness and the impurities of his own life and he came to realize he also was deserving of judgment.

The first thing that we find in Isaiah's reaction to the vision is one of personal responsibility. A person cannot come in contact with the presence of God without immediately noticing their own sinful condition.

Who has clean hands and a pure heart (Ps. 24:3-4)? Isaiah didn't. Neither do we when we come face to face with God. The glory of God, His divine holiness, will make any sin immediately come to light.

Isaiah also realized that he was doomed to ruin.

This vision of God showed both who he was and who God was. Isaiah realized that he could not praise God with impure lips.

Isaiah teaches us that no one can stand before God without being profoundly made aware of his sinful condition. Isaiah also makes us aware that standing before God shows God's pronounced greatness above man. In order for Isaiah to be used by God, he must first cleanse himself of impure speech and sins. We are no exception to these truths. As believers we also must see ourselves in light of God. **Our view of God will directly impact our usefulness for God.**

II. God bestows a powerful commission to the prophet (Isa. 6:6-12).

The Lord forgives the prophet's sin.

The Lord provided a remedy: the seraph came and touched Isaiah's mouth and cleansed him of his sin. What a powerful symbolical picture of God's forgiveness for confessed sin. One of the responses to God's holiness is complete forgiveness for the repentant heart. God is bound by His holiness to forgive Isaiah's repentant heart.

Now that Isaiah is forgiven God sends this messenger to give him this mission.

Before Isaiah could serve God, his sins must be forgiven. **Once man responds correctly to God, God responds with His complete forgiveness.**

The Lord calls and the prophet answers.

The mission was accepted before the Lord explains the mission in detail. Once Isaiah received the reassurance of the forgiveness of his sins, he was ready to serve Jehovah.

This is the reason that so few people are willing to serve God. It is only when a person is humbly contrite and has confessed his or her sin, when God has forgiven that person, that he or she is then ready to serve the Lord wherever He may take him and for whatever task is given. **What we need today is a vision of God's holiness.**

Isaiah based his decision on the character of God, not on the ease of his task.

The Lord gives the mission.

Isaiah was called to a completely negative and impossible mission. Isaiah was to tell the people: Hear, but don't understand. Hear what? The words of the prophet, the words from God Himself. In other words Isaiah was to proclaim to the nation the message God had given to them. There would be no excuse for missing the message.

The work of Isaiah would bring forth the hardening of the heart so that there would be no possibility of salvation. Their heart was so callous that it could not possibly be spiritually changed at this point. The divine word of God would not be understood or heard.

The people would refuse to repent, and the words that Isaiah would give to them would lead them to their downfall. No more could they respond and be healed from their sinful state. The nation had not listened in the past and would not listen in the future. God said then to let them persist and wallow in their sin. Isaiah's message would then render them blinder, deafer, and more insensitive to God. God's judgment was necessary because of their disobedience.

Oh, what a dangerous place to come in a person or nation's life. "A deliberate and continued refusal to perceive what God is doing or to hear His voice must eventually result in blindness and deafness; a deliberate refusal to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit must make ones' heart hard and callous, until the point is reached where there is no return and no cure" (Buksbazen 142). Let us not be weary to give the gospel out even if we do not know the results. Nothing could be worse than Isaiah's case and knowing the results. Yet, Isaiah obeyed. We must remain faithful like Isaiah.

To think that God is forcing the people into a place of hardness without any opportunity to repent contradicts God's words in 1:18-20. The nature of God is to offer forgiveness to a repentant heart. But God has given us a free will. Man can choose to repent or not. The bottom line is that God knew, just as He knows all things, how the people would respond to Isaiah's preaching. He knew that the people would harden their hearts.

III. A life of holiness always gives eternal hope. (Isa. 6:13).

These are faith followers of God who trust completely in His plan even when it involves His judgment on the nation. It is through this holy seed that the Redeemer will come forth and in it is vested the hope of salvation for the nation. It was through this holy seed that both Redeemer and redemption would spring forth. Therefore, we can call this verse a Messianic prophecy.

How does Isaiah 6:5-13 apply to me?

1. Coming face to face with God's holiness will either change a person or cause them to grow callous to God. God's holiness is no laughing matter.
2. Repentance is always a prerequisite to fully serving God.
3. Taking my eyes off of God can have grave consequences. I must never come to a place in my life that I stay unrepentant for very long. Conversely, placing my focus on God will come with unadulterated blessing.
4. When I think about a small remnant, I must ask myself: "Will I stand with the true believers in these worsening days?"

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God's justice will not be mocked.
2. Confession of sin is always the right response to God's holiness.
3. God always commissions sinners, but He can only use humble sinners for His work.
4. God desires those who worship Him with clean hands and a pure heart. "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully." Psalm 24:4

What are some call to action truths from Isaiah 6:5-13 ?

1. A repentant life is always the useable life for God. What is stopping you from repenting of your sins?
2. When was the last time you said like the psalmist, "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"?
3. We must base our decisions on the character of God not on the ease of the task.