

life groups

NorthStar Church

Fearless Pt 3
Isaiah 6
Pastor Scott
06/09 & 06/10

Main Point

God's loves His people and has called us to the holiness. He allows us to catch glimpses of His glory when we are personally desperate to experience Him. Revival is experiencing a time of refreshing with God.

Introduction

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Tell about a time when a person in your family or a good friend so radically changed their appearance or style that it could not be missed. What was your or your family's response?

When we are confronted with God's glorious nature, the only acceptable response is worship. Worship is our response, both personal and corporate, to God for Who He is and what He has done; expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live. Today we will see how the prophet Isaiah came face to face with the glory of God and worshiped by confessing his sin and surrendering to God's will.

Setting

Isaiah 6:1-13 King Uzziah had been leading Israel well for 52 years. He was strong, king and Godly. This generation only knew stability. Our passage open with the king dying. Even Isaiah was devastated and overwhelmed. In some ways it felt like when the king died, part of the whole nation died with him.

Understanding

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Revival means times of refreshing that comes from the presence of the Lord.

Have a volunteer read Isaiah 6:1-5.

Scott gave us three things to see in this passage:

1. God's people get a fresh glimpse of God

Seraphim are angels. Great and good though they themselves are, these angels worshiped God in humility. By covering their feet and faces, these angelic beings were acknowledging their unworthiness to be in God's presence. They praised God for His holiness and glory. They proclaimed that the earth is filled with His glory.

Why do you think the seraphim spoke the word “holy” three times? What does this communicate about the nature of God?

In the presence of God, the Seraphim cried out, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty.” The Hebrew word translated holy comes from a root that means “to separate” or “to cut off.” By declaring God to be “holy” three times, the Seraphim were acknowledging the perfection or completion of God’s holiness. This reminds us that there is no one holy like the Lord (1 Samuel 2:2).

2. God’s people become humbled and honest about themselves

The people realized that they were cut off, that they were unclean and this led to personal confession. When we see ourselves in light of God’s glory, it humbles us deeply. Scott points out that you are never ready for ministry until you realize your inadequacy.

3. Out of our repentance, we see the spiritual needs of others

Isaiah 6:5 records the emotional and spiritual response of Isaiah to the vision of God’s holiness. Isaiah was convicted of his sinfulness and the wickedness of his fellow citizens in Judah. Does sin disqualify us from approaching and serving God?

Scott pointed out that God puts in us a desire to go and tell others about Him. What spiritual needs have you noticed around you?

Have a volunteer read Isaiah 6:6-13.

Scott pointed out the two fold result of revival.

1. Cleansing: After touching Isaiah’s unclean mouth, the seraphim pronounced that his wickedness was removed and his sin was atoned for. Isaiah’s unclean lips didn’t become clean because of his effort or desire to change, but by God’s grace alone. Often those who have done wrong seek to earn God’s forgiveness. Yet God forgives sin because He is gracious, not because we earn it. His perfect grace is another aspect of His holiness. Like Isaiah, we too can be made able to serve God by looking to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for our sins (1 Peter 3:18).

Isaiah’s vision of God’s holiness had a profound effect on him. Our understanding of God’s holiness should dramatically impact our lives as well. God’s holiness is too profound for us to really wrap our minds around, but when we get just a taste of it, we are humbled by our sin and aware of our dependence on Him. This is what Isaiah experienced when he described himself as “a man of unclean lips” (v. 5). Like Isaiah, we must repent in acknowledgement of our personal sinfulness.

2. Calling: Isaiah didn’t hesitate when he volunteered for the Lord’s service. He immediately said, “Here am I. Send me!” When God calls us to His service, our response also should be an unhesitating “Send me.” We shouldn’t just dream of what we can do for God, we should listen for His call on our lives and be willing to surrender our lives for His service.

Isaiah was not merely a consumer of God’s glory, he was consumed by God’s glory. Why is that distinction important?

Application

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Are you in need of personal revival or a fresh glimpse of God?

How might unconfessed sin keep us from seeing and delighting in God's glory? What do you need to confess and repent of today following Isaiah's example?

Do you see the need of others? Do you feel the call of God to go and tell? Where do you feel you should be volunteering?

If you attended a service this weekend, what did you sense God doing in and through the Northstar body?

Pray

Pray that God would reveal His holiness in a powerful way to your group and all of our church. Pray that in response to God's holiness, all would be humble, repentant, and filled with worship. Pray that your group would grow together by encouraging one another to live in awe of the glory and holiness of God.

Commentary

ISAIAH 6:1-8

6:1. The years of Uzziah's reign were also a time of unfaithfulness by the people of Judah. Empty ritualism and hypocrisy characterized their worship. The death of Uzziah ended a long period of stability and created the potential for a national crisis.

Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne. The high and lofty throne was in the temple. Being on the throne emphasizes the Lord as the true King of Judah and being in the temple emphasizes His holiness. Judah had lost its earthly king, Uzziah, but the true King is always on His throne.

6:2. Isaiah saw seraphim standing above the Lord. Ancient oriental kings surrounded themselves with a court of servants, and the Lord appeared in a similar way to Isaiah. The word "seraphim" ("burning ones" in Hebrew) is the plural of "seraph."

6:3. The seraphim called to one another in a responsive, or antiphonal, chant. The key characteristic of God lauded by these angels was His holiness. "Holy" is repeated three times for emphasis. Holy is the key adjective in describing the uniqueness of God. Holiness incorporates the sum total of His perfection. Holiness describes the presence of complete perfection and the absence of any imperfection.

6:4. The seraphim's hymn rocked the foundations of the heavenly temple. The smoke that filled the temple probably came from incense and added the sensory experience of smell to Isaiah's vision.

6:5. Isaiah's response to these heavenly sights and sounds was an overpowering recognition of sin. Isaiah looked at the Lord and then looked at himself, and his conclusion was "I am ruined." Isaiah referred to his unclean lips, representing complete sinfulness.

6:6. Isaiah expressed despair concerning his conviction of sin and knew there was nothing he could do to remove his sin. If the Lord did not provide a remedy, no remedy could be found. In His mercy the Lord sent one of the seraphim who took a glowing coal from the altar and approached Isaiah with it in his hand.

6:7. Isaiah declared himself "a man of unclean lips" (v. 5), and a seraph touched his lips in response to his confession of sin. These terms are clearly symbolic and indicate God alone can forgive our sins. Just as the sinfulness of Isaiah's lips symbolized all of his sin (v. 5), "the touching of his lips" symbolized the removal of all his sin. As a result of this act, the prophet's wickedness was removed, his sin was atoned for. The concept of atonement implies the necessity of payment and a substitute to redeem the sinner.

6:8 After removing the prophet's sin, the Lord issued a call to service. Salvation must precede service. The Lord sought a volunteer to deliver His message of warning to the people of Judah. The Lord was surrounded by

angelic messengers (seraphim), but He desired a human messenger to confront the sinful nation. Isaiah, after he was cleansed from his sin, said “send me.”