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"SEEING GOD"

Isaiah 6

INTRODUCTION:

Words will never bring in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Supreme question: "When did you meet God?"

A woman attended a church --- asked the pastor a question "Can I find God here today?" Pray for the Lord's leading and she found God there that day.

Nothing will really happen in our church or in us until we find God.

Many people come to church -- listen to a lot of words and leave, but nothing real has happened in them.

(Quakers) I'm told sit in silence until someone is inspired to speak on what God means to him. Would this cause you to be uncomfortable.

Have you had a real meeting with God? You say but I go to church when the weather is fair or at best on special days.

(Dim) vision of who He is. May be it is dimmed by the mechanics of worship. Isaiah had been to the Temple many times but without getting a fresh real vision of God -- that was his need.

Here is a man who lived hundreds of years before the time of Christ. He left behind a written record of his personal religious experience--this record tells of seeing God.

What a revelation! His eyesight enabled him to see God -- to see Seraphims - to see self. To see service and to see salvation!

I. Seeing God - Verse 1

Empty throne - "King Uzziah died".

This may or may not have had significance for his experience. This is setting a date. Like you would say it was the year President Kennedy died or some historical date.

Some that the death of the king had a direct bearing upon Isaiah that morning. It was a personal loss to Isaiah. Who would be God's spokesman in this sad time? Who would be king? Critical days? Perhaps these were some of the ideas as he went to church that day.

Uzziah had been king in Jerusalem for 52 years. A builder -- important to the life of the nation. Nation had been blessed. Philistines, Ammonites had been brought into subjection. 2 Chron. 26.

Now he is to die a leper! National glory died with Uzziah and has never recovered until this present day.

Name Uzziah means --- "The power of Jehovah". The power of Jehovah to bless and save a nation. Years would pass before the joyful cry "I am not ashamed of the Gospel would come".

It had been a time of prosperity. Jotham would succeed him on the throne. He had restored most lost territory, built towers, made cisterns, planted land.

But - in pride he rebelled against God and was smitten with leprosy. Hence, spent his last days in a leper house.

News spread from street to street. "The King is dead".

Throne to which they looked for support was empty! Who will succeed? Pitiful time!

Time - (Dr. John Sampey) enjoyed talking about certain events and established them around his hero, General Robert E. Lee.

Great experiences marked by great events. Isaiah thought well of his reign. We are influenced by great people. Important people who serve our time.

Tied a lot of hopes upon Uzziah - his death turned Isaiah into emotion and seeing God.

This is course of history - impact on the world.

People have idea of living always - Hitler must die. Suppose people who were little lived forever? Bad people - little people - narrow minded people.

Few little Uzziah's in our way of seeing God! May be some little things in your life -- passion - sin -- you may not know. I did not see God until the King died! Isaiah did not know this was in his way. He was righteous, but had not seen God.

You may think you have religion, but have you seen God?

Throne of Judah was empty - but (beyond) he could see another throne that was occupied!

Isaiah must have been near the altar where the burnt offerings were made, near the front of the temple.

2. Throne Occupied - "Lord upon a throne". Not earthly King, Heavenly King. Not a temporal throne, but an eternal throne.

Paul I Tim. 6:15-16. "Which in his times he shall show who is the blessed and only potentate. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords".

Throne is high - elevated.

How we need to sense the majesty of God. High and lifted up. Tendency to be so chummy with God. Hollywood actress repent to God as "a living doll".

We treat God as if he were just one of us. It is alright to sing "My God and I, we walk the fields together" -- but we must remember that He is the creator of those fields.

May talk about the man upstairs -- but never see God until you see him as great - holy - high and lifted up!

God Not a Puppet - Never Forget God's Character is Transcendent - Without it our Religion degenerates!

3. Temple Occupied - Great presence of God filled the temple. Not far off.

Remarkable thought! In God's temple there is only room for God. Bible says his train filled the temple. You can worship one God - not two. Only room for living God.

In your heart only room for one God!

Describes him as a God of sovereignty - high - lifted up - royal.

John 12 - Alabaster Box Story - Verse 41 "These things said Isaiah because he saw his glory". What did he say? Lord was high, lifted up.

Jesus - see me you see the father -

4. Serephims - glory everywhere -- smoke from altar. Singing note the song - Holy, Holy, Holy, --- "The Whole earth is full of His glory".

Verse (3) - We can learn from this scene - there is no discord, no discussion, no difference, "All the mind in heaven is one". How different in the murky atmosphere of this sinful world. Can not see God because the church is full of people who are not of the same mind.

Indescribable sight - none as important as seeing God.

Here is the Trinity - words used 3 times. Whole earth - holy - 3 times! Who will go for us! Who is us? Refers to Trinity.

Moses, looked into the promise land.

Verse (4) - Everything was moved - awe - struck!

Threshold - entrance - shook - smoke.

Transforming experience is about to take place. Not see God, and remain the same. Embrace and practice mercy, believe mercy, believe in love, dignity of man.

Note a connection with the church will not give you this -- I have seen people be mean and evil in the church, spread hate, and yet call themselves Christians.

Not be mean and hate and look at God at the same time!

May wear church label and never see God!

II: Seeing Self - Verse 5

Sees everything exactly as it is -- and sounds the alarm ("I am lost") - unhappy man.

So it was with Saul of Tarsus. Acts 9.

Woe is me -- seeing reality.

Philadelphia - museum, known as Franklin Scientific Institute. At one place there is a mirror lighted by black light. As people come and stand in front of the mirror their teeth and fingernails glow. If however, any of the teeth are false, they

do not show up at all. It just looks as if there is nothing there. Often a person will come before the mirror with a smile and end up with a little cry of horror. So, everything false is revealed when we stand in the white light of God.

Shocked out of his complacency - but a man will not wake up to his great need until he sees God.

Man in New Testament - "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are" --- when man sees his soul as God sees them he gets a view of weakness.

Abraham, Gen. 18. felt like dust and ashes.

Moses - I just can't speak - can't work for God.

Undone - Isaiah really meant that - unworthy - whole burden of Isaiah's sinful life was uncleanness.

We sit around and talk about how bad the world is - other people are - He lost no time there. Wonder of God had convinced him of his unworthiness.

Blame everybody else but self.

Do you know of this experience?

Have you ever felt undone - worthless in sight of God?

Have you ever cried woe is me out of conviction?

Unclean lips - why? James 3:6, Tongue defileth the whole body. Speech, expresses a man -- things that proceed out of a man come forth from the heart.

Saw whole human race - helpless - undone.

Saw redemptive purpose of God. He saw the awful righteousness. One of seraphims flew with a live coal in one hand. Perfect cleansing provided. Listen: Singing of seraphims. Thunder. Cry of a guilty man. Lo, this hath touched.

Glowing cover of fire from the altar is the thing with which God deals with this soul in need. Fire from the altar where atonement was made for sin.

Our altar is the cross. Spotless lamb of God!

Never the same again. Emphasize unclean lips, conduct, character, nature.

Touched - not think of as casual contact. Significant. Luke 8:45. When the Lord felt the finger tip and asked "Who touched me"? Virtue went out. The inner man must be touched.

The Brazen Serpent must be lifted up.

Woman walked in church - "Can I find God here today?" Usher seated her - told the Preacher - suggested they all pray. One of great mothers of the congregation began to pray. Others prayed. The woman moved to the altar, "I have found Him". She went to her Doctor and told her experience. Her employer. Told everybody she had found God.

Noaman was told by a little girl how he could find God and get cleansed.

Isaiah said I see my neighbors - broken - undone.

Iniquity is gone!

III. Seeing Service - Verse 8

(Voice) whom? Who is ready? Not, now I am going to force you.

I need somebody - to go for us. Not, calling angels - but some one to go to sinful men on a mission.

Are you going with your life exactly what the Lord God would have you to do? As far as you know?

(Preachers) S. B. C. - less than half as many ordained in 1960 as were ordained in 1951. Can that be explained by saying that God is not calling as many now? Or that man's response has been reduced?

Isaiah, not addressed by name.

No force used on him.

Voice, whom shall I send.

Who will go.

You might argue God has not called us to special service -- God may be calling through ordinary Christian experience.

Not send him a letter or telegram - unique way touched heart.

Isaiah did not shrink. Did not ask is it an easy job? God does not call me!
Is this a dangerous mission? What kind of financial security may I expect?

Here is great encouragement. God did not demand success, but faithfulness.

When God's call is sure -- response should be immediate. Nothing is gained by post-ponement.

William James - "When one has a good impulse he should act on it immediately".

No hesitation - forever deliberating will do the job. When God's call is sure -- the opportunity of special service should be considered a privilege.

God did not require Isaiah to convert a single soul. William Carey labored for years without a convert!

Isaiah was pardoned.

God needed a man for this mission. Christ is looking for men today.

Charlemagne - had a regiment of soldiers for one thing -- not fight ordinary battles, but one thing -- when it came to the impossible they were to give their lives.

Isaiah - not send brother.

Today - God perhaps is saying to someone "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"

IV. Seeing Salvation - Verse 9

Profound Religious Experiences -

Verse 9 - Called - expect everyone to (be happy). Expect all our problems to be removed. Expect immediate complete success.

Why would his message be refused? Blinded by sin. Failure -- see people become worse - rather than better. Turning away from God instead of repentance.

How! Jesus crucified and Barabarus goes free!

Strange errand - blind - deaf - hardened. Take light into a barn at night!

Rats - mice - scatter - true state!

Isaiah never forgot -- "at the cross, where I just saw the light".

Whole outlook changes when you see the Lord. Glory filled earth -- did not know that before! Glory in morning, grass, flowers, birds --

Depressed - done for.

Robe filled temple - angels begin to sing.

Saw self - unclean - redeemed - eyes have seen the King. Sins covered.

Saw his predicament.

Who will go.

"I told the Lord (here am I)" -- Undone but here am I.

Wasting my life, but here I am.

Weak, but I will go.

Poor, but I will go anyhow.

Here is my heart.

Here is my hand -- send me out.

*Some one asked Rabbi why no one ever sees God anymore?
"They can't bow low enough!"*

Verse 11 - 12 - How Long? Judgment. Whole land without form and void.

Cities wasted. Houses empty. Forsaking God.

Who knows but I may be preaching in such a time - nuclear war could destroy world.

Verse 13 - Tenth - Jehovah shall have his tithe. Go preach, God will do the converting. Oak -- life still in the root - rooted stump

Stock of Israel.

There would be some who would find God.

What are you going to do? Become one of the tenth!

Isaiah entered the Temple to see God!

Woman - "Can I find God here today?"

In this service This morning some are anxious to see God -

Search your heart - incline - see God lifted up -

Get Ready to say Here Am I - Lift A PRAYER!

Move down the steps to the Altar!

Mia Farrow - Wife of Tom Siskat - Returned to Miami Beach yesterday - 6 weeks of Meditation with the Beatles in the Himalayas - Take 6 Mo. course with Ewro in India - Purpose "to be a better person"

*You don't have to leave this Bldg. to see God - Right here today - Now!
Pray For your eyes to be opened - Right where you sit today -
Consider your own life - God is here -*

Chapter 6 Confrontation With God: High and Exalted.

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever"

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God."

We see only ourselves as we are when we see God,

Two Things

1. The Vision of God Reveals His Glory.

King, Zippah did (52 yr reign) National crisis.

The Manifestation of God defies human description.

Scriptures - no man can see God at anytime Ex 19:21, 20:19, 33:20 yet Isaiah did see the Lord. John 1:18; 1 Tim 1:16

The manifestation of God takes place at the Earthly Home Temple or church - also went to ch & really saw God.

The vision God's position & His Praise.

high & exalted - Power towering above the Earth.

His Praise comes in both action & Confession from sublime heavenly beings. Seraphim - burning ones -

face - feet - voice - terrible & splendid to see.

Humility; covered their faces & feet -

activity; ceaseless working & praising God

Holiness; never stopping; cry back & forth in

Choirs "Holy, Holy, Holy;" we need to join them

2. The Reaction of man reveals our need.

To the vision - Woe is me! Driven to Confession!

Have you experienced God? Cleansing comes from the place of sacrifice at the altar -