

Why Serve God

Isaiah 6:1-8

Preface

Today at the end of our service we will ordain a new deacon of our church. As a deacon you become subject to close scrutiny. You are expected to do all sorts of manual tasks around the church and serve whenever needed. So, why would a man be willing to serve as a deacon? Why would any man want to take on more responsibility in life?

That question can be asked of others as well. Why do we have volunteers who are in the other building conducting Children's Church right? Why are people in the nursery? Why do people volunteer to serve on our committees and commit to hours of extra work and responsibility? Why do people invest the time in being in the choir? Why do couples go to the mission field?

Scripture

¹ *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.*

² *Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.* ³ *And they were calling to one another:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."*

⁴ *At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

⁵ *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

⁶ *Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.* ⁷ *With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*

⁸ *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"*

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV

Introduction

Isaiah had an experience that changed his life forever. His experience was a precursor to the salvation God offers today through Jesus Christ.

How does a man or woman become motivated to serve God with all that is within them?

Content

1. See God for who He is (play song: I see the Lord)

Isaiah saw God for who He is. We must see God in all of His glory; high and lifted up.

The problem for most people is they have not seen God for who He is. Most people see him through their logic and reasoning rather than spiritually.

Isaiah saw God in a vision that gave him a clear understanding of the awesome majesty of God the creator. God was exalted and His glory filled the earth.

Before you can truly experience God, you must see God for who He is. Have you seen God in all His majesty and glory?

Illus: In a week Pam and I will go to the mountains for a few days. The thing I most look forward to about the trip is having time alone with God. I can count on His presence and I long to see Him in all the majesty.

2. See Yourself for who you are

Illus: There are certain universal laws of reaction. If you shake a coke while it is in a confined space, it is going to expand and come exploding out. If you mix baking soda and vinegar together, they are going to expand and explode. The examples go on.

There is a also universal reaction to seeing God for who He is. When we see God in all of his glory and majesty, the automatic reaction is to see ourselves for who we are.

Isaiah was the prophet who spoke boldly so often to the people of Judah about their sin. 22 times Isaiah begins statements with

“Woe.” But when he saw God, he cried “Woe is me! I am ruined!” The King James translates it, “Woe is me! For I am undone.”

At that moment, in the shadow of God’s majesty, Isaiah saw himself for who he was.

No one else can have this effect upon a person. It would not matter if the President of the US was in this room, the greatest sports star, the greatest war hero, or the smartest scientist in the world. You might want their autograph or to shake their hand but none of them would cause you to go to your knees and proclaim “Woe is me! I am ruined!”

When Ezekial saw God’s glory he too responded with humility as did Job, Moses and Paul. And in Luke 5:8, when Peter realized Jesus was the son of God, he fell to his knees and said, “Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man.”

Only God can in a split second cause us to see ourselves for who we really are; empty sinners in need of forgiveness.

3. Receive Forgiveness

God never stirs up conviction without offering forgiveness. In Isaiah’s case, the seraph placed a hot coal on his lips and said, *“See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”*

What a beautiful picture of salvation through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God offers each and every one of us the same forgiveness and atonement through Christ.

Only God can pierce our hearts and expose our sin. Only God can in an instance expose us to ourselves and cause us to exclaim, I am a sinful man. Likewise, only God can offer atonement and forgiveness. Only God has the authority to declare a guilty sinner, “Not Guilty!”

Before Isaiah could be given his mission, he had to be made holy. Not holy as in something he had done but holy as in cleansed by God. God wants to do the same with you today.

4. Surrender to Him

God then says, “Whom shall I send and who will god?” Isaiah’s response was “Here am I, send me.”

Isaiah was now sanctified, set apart, devoted to the one who forgave him. Without all that guilt and completely free from shame, Isaiah didn’t hesitate. He belonged to God and he was there for God’s service.

When you say yes to God’s salvation, God sets you aside for His service. He calls you to do His work with your entire being.

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIV

When Isaiah said, “Here am I” he meant every part of him. When God calls us, He calls our body, soul and mind. When we surrender to Him, we surrender our rights, thoughts, attitudes and choices. We give God our time, skills, talents and abilities.

We become His!

Conclusion

Do you long for an experience like that of Isaiah. You must first see God in all His glory. When you do, you will see yourself as a sinner, receive forgiveness and then say “Yes” to whatever He calls you to do.

Isaiah’s prophecies about a virgin birth of a messiah were proven 700 years later. 2700 years later, the ministry of Isaiah reverberates through God’s word right here in Barnwell Baptist Church.

Illus: I read this week where 14 British teen girls worked for months to attend a dance competition this week in California. They bagged groceries, had a fashion show, a bingo night and several dance shows to raise the \$44,000.00 to attend the dance competition in the US. When they showed up at the airport, the organizer was nowhere to be found. There were no plane tickets purchased and no motel reservations had been made. “These girls worked so hard for nothing” said one father.

There are going to be a lot of people who realize they have spent their lives working for the wrong things. Why not serve God with your entire being?