

"Experiencing the Presence of God"

(Isaiah 6:1-8)

I. The Man

- A. Isaiah was perhaps the greatest prophet of Israel.
- B. There came along a king in Judah who was a man of some influence named Uzziah.
 - 1. He was generally a successful king and brought benefits to his people.
 - 2. The sad story of Uzziah is that in the end pride lifted up his heart.
 - 3. God gave him terminal leprosy.
- C. During the time of Uzziah there was an ever-increasing moral decadence.
- D. It was almost as if as long as Uzziah was around, he sort of preserved the whole thing from coming apart at the seams.
- E. Instead of turning around to crying and mourning, they said let's really live it up, it may all end tomorrow.

II. The Manifestation

- A. As Isaiah sees a vision of the Seraphim...angels who attend to God's holiness.
- B. They have 3 sets of wings?
 - 1. With 2 they did fly.
 - 2. "They had two more wings with which they covered their feet."
 - a. Do you remember when Moses saw the burning bush?
 - b. A voice came to him out of the bush and said "take off your shoes, Moses...you're standing on holy ground."
 - c. So they cover their feet for it's holy ground.
 - 3. Then it says they had two wings with which to cover their face.
 - a. Moses said, "God, I'd like You to show me Your glory?"
 - b. And God says, "No man can see My glory and live. I'll tuck you in the cleft of a rock and I'll let you see my back parts."
 - c. That's why the angels covered their faces.
- C. But the most incredible thing about them is not what they look like, it's what they said.
 - 1. Verse 3, "they said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."
 - 2. When the Bible says "holy, holy, holy" what it's doing is emphasizing the holiness of God.
 - 3. It's the only attribute of God that is spoken of in repetition three times?
- D. What was Isaiah's reaction?
 - 1. Verse 5, "Then said I, Woe is me for I am undone. I am a man of unclean lips."

III. The Mandate

- A. When he knew he was in the presence of God, he almost fell apart.
- B. No one ever comes before the holiness of God without devastation.
- C. It is literally the grace of God that you and I are not this moment consumed by the fire of His wrath.
- D. We Christians say, "Well, the world doesn't like a God like that, you'll alienate them. We want a God who is sort of nice,"
- E. Isaiah is devastated.
- F. Verse 6..."Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. He laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips and thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin is purged."
- G. And once it's done, then verse 8..."Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I Here am I, send me."
- H. The last statement he made was a declaration of his unworthiness and now he says, "Lord, You need anybody? I'll go...I'll go."
- I. The only way a man is fit to serve is when he's cleansed by the grace of God.

V. Conclusion

- A. I think the cross is the live coal that touches our lips.
- B. The cross is the thing that purges us.
- C. You and I could never stand in the presence of a holy God apart from the cross.