

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 10

Title: 5 Things Sinner's Must Have

Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1-8

Date: 10-26-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

I. ALL OUR IDOLS MUST BE REMOVED.

Isaiah 6: 1: In the year that king Uzziah died

A. ISAIAH ADMIRER KING UZZIAH.

1. Scripture tells us that Uzziah was a good king. He was 16 years old when he began to reign and he reigned 52 years. Isaiah was brought up and taught of the greatness of king Uzziah and all that he had accomplished.
2. Not only this but Isaiah was related to king Uzziah.
3. Between Uzziah being such a good king admired by the people and him being a relative of Isaiah's, this king had become too much admired by Isaiah.

B. THE LORD USED UZZIAH TO SHOW ISAIAH THAT THERE IS BUT ONE GOD.

1. After all the good that king Uzziah had done, his heart was lifted up within him. He bypassed the priest and went into the temple to burn incense to the Lord.
2. This was the same as if a man attempts to bypass Christ to come into God's presence.
3. Christ is our High Priest. No man can come to God but by him.
4. So this king whom Isaiah admired so much was dwelt with by the King of heaven and earth:

2 King 15: 5: And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son *was* over the house, judging the people of the land.

The Lord removed Isaiah's idol. The Lord revealed to Isaiah that there is no God but the Lord God of heaven and earth. God will have no rivals.

If those persons and things we hold dear interfere with God receiving the glory which is his-- God will take away our idols, our comforts, our strengths, our assurances, for we must behold that God alone is our King, our Lord and our Savior. So as importantly as seeing the mortality and sinfulness of his beloved king, Isaiah saw something else, which we see next:

II. WE MUST BE GIVEN A DIVINE REVELATION

A. ISIAH SAYS, "I SAW ALSO THE LORD." (v1.)

1. How did Isaiah see the Lord? **Isaiah 1: 1: The vision of Isaiah...**he saw a visual appearance and tells us exactly what it looked like. This is how God made it appear to Isaiah so that Isaiah could comprehend the glory of God.

2. But the important thing to get is: this was revealed in Isaiah by God. This is how we see by the eye of faith. We behold Christ by revelation from God just as Isaiah did. Isaiah was sent forth to tell what he saw and through his word the Lord divinely revealed Christ to others. So we preach Christ and through the gospel the Lord reveals the glory of his righteousness.

Romans 1: 16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

B. WHO IS THIS LORD HE SAW?

1. John tells us it was Christ the Lord.

John 12: 36: "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. 37: But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39: Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40: He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41: These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

C. HOW DID ISIAH SEE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST? Everything Isaiah saw about our Lord is how you and I must behold him if we would believe on the true Lord and Savior.

1. SITTING (v1)--HAVING ACCOMPLISHED AND FINISHED HIS WORK.

- The Lord Jesus Christ finished the work God gave him to do.
- The Lord Jesus fulfilled his covenant obligations,
- He fulfilled all that the prophets said of him and all that the law foreshadowed
- As the second Adam--Christ the Federal Representative of his people obeyed every precept of God's law in thought, word and deed
- As the Lamb of God and Substitute for his people--he answered to the penalty of God's law which says, the soul that sinneth must die. He died the just for the unjust.

when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb 1: 3.)

2. UPON A THRONE (v1.)--We must see him AS he is:

- Jesus Christ the Lord is living.
- He is LORD of lords AND KING of kings.
- Reigning with God the Father from his heavenly throne.

Revelation 3:21: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

3. HIGH (v1.)--We must see WHO he is--

- He is THE SON OF GOD
- GOD IN HUMAN FLESH
- The Great I AM--Before Abraham was I AM

If we are going to be brought low, we must first behold him HIGH. Our Savior is God Almighty.

4. LIFTED UP (v1.)--We must see that God the Father is well-pleased with him and that, BY GOD THE FATHER he was and is lifted up.

- He is the preeminent Captain, the Author and Pioneer of faith, the Faithful One,
- He faithfully obeyed and gave himself to be lifted up on the cross
- God the Father is well-pleased that God the Father lifted him up glorified in heaven

Romans 1: 4: And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: In resurrecting him, lifting him up, the Father was saying what he said when the Son obeyed him at the day of his baptism: **2 Peter 1:17: For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

5. HIS TRAIN (HIS ROBE) FILLED THE TEMPLE (v1.)--His train signifies his dominion and glory as our King Priest. His High Priestly dominion reaches not just around his throne but fills his whole temple in heaven and earth. He reigns in the midst of his church.

As Isaiah beheld judgment poured out upon king Uzziah, Isaiah beheld Christ the Lord, high and lifted up, seated upon the throne of judgment and Isaiah beheld his judgment reaching all the way to the hearts of men.

Psalm 11:4: The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Hab 2:20: But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Psalm 66:7: He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

6. Not only did Isaiah behold that the Lord Jesus Christ, the fullness of the Godhead, is the King Priest and Judge upon his throne and ruling in heaven and earth, but he heard it declared how he rules and judges.

V2: Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

- These sinless, righteous seraphims--covered their face and their feet at the presence of his holiness.
- Oh, but "they did fly" to declare the majesty and goodness of their Lord.

The heavenly host is not concerned with self but with the glory of the Redeemer. So it is with Christ's messengers. My gospel commands you and me to cover our face and our feet, to mortify the pride of this sinful flesh. Through this gospel God makes his messengers want to fly to declare his Holy Character and Salvation.

- So they did cry out in agreement--"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts." "The whole earth is full of his glory."

Remember: It was not by his love that the LORD made his covenant with David, but something far more constraining upon God and sure to the believer--

Psalm 89:35: Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

God is holy. **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Genesis 18:25.)**

- The love of God for his children is a holy love.
- God is holy in choosing to save sinners in Christ and passing by others. That is exactly what the apostle Paul concluded when he answered men's objections to God's electing grace by saying, **Romans 9:20: Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?**
- God is Holy in saving sinners in perfect righteousness--holy in justice and thus holy in mercy. Those whom God saves are the vilest, God-hating, lawbreakers there are. If God is to remain holy then his justice must be satisfied toward even those he saves. The one who takes their place must meet God's measure of holiness--Christ did. He died to satisfy holy justice and he did. God's holiness is what made God raise him from the dead according to his word to his Son. God's holiness is how we know that every sinner for whom Christ made atonement shall be called to faith in Christ by the Holy Spirit. God's holiness will not judge them when he has already poured out judgment on their Substitute and Redeemer. They being dead in sins, must be brought to spiritual and eternal life by God alone--and he promised his Son and he is holy to make good on that promise. **Romans 3: 25: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he**

might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27: Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

- God is holy in his word to us.
- He is holy in removing our idols as he did Isaiah.
- Holy in exalting his Son in our hearts as he did Isaiah.

I. We must have our idols removed--King Uzziah died

II. We must have the glory of Christ revealed in us by God--I saw the Lord

III. WE MUST BE MADE TO CONFESS WHAT WE ARE

A. ISAIAH CONFESSED WHAT HE WAS.

4: And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5: Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

1. Woe is me! For I am undone.
2. I am a man of unclean lips.
3. I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.

B. WHEN WAS IT THAT ISAIAH SAW HIMSELF THIS WAY?

V5:...for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

1. Have you confessed this of yourself? This is much more than simply confessing, "I have sinned." This is the confession that "I AM UNDONE. UNDONE IS NOT SIMPLY SOMETHING I HAVE DONE, IT IS WHAT I AM!" Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks--unclean lips come from an unclean heart.

2. Isaiah beheld that there was none to help him. He beheld the total ruin of the whole human race. This is what every sinner is in the flesh. Job was brought to this place where Isaiah was brought, he said, **Job 42: 5: I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6: Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.** Is this what you are? **Mark 2:17: When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

3. Without this revelation of Christ high and lifted up, a man may look to the law and truly believe, "As touching the law blameless." He may look to other men and sincerely say, "I thank thee, that I am not like other men."

But when the Holy Spirit reveals Christ the King then we bow in subjection. When we are made to behold Christ the LORD of the armies of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth then we behold ourselves as nothing. By his grace, this acknowledgment and confession of what we are in this body, continues to be our confession: **1 Timothy 1:15: This is a faithful**

saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I (not was, but) am chief.

IV. WE MUST HAVE OUR CONSCIENCE PURGED

V6: Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

When our idols have been removed by God, when our Lord Jesus has been exalted before our eyes, when we have been brought to confess what we are, then our God applies his mercy and grace in Christ to our hearts. **I John 1: 8: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

A. This live coal represents the gospel message.

Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

1. It was taken directly from off the Altar of fire--Christ is our Altar, it is his sacrifice under the firey wrath of God that is the pardon of our sin, the cleansing and power of God unto salvation--just as mercy and grace flows from him, the good news of his mercy and grace comes directly from him.

B. This live coal also represents the effectual cleansing of Christ's blood applied to the sinner.

1. This live coal was laid directly on Isaiah's mouth--just as Christ was made the sin of his people, so are his redeemed made the righteousness of God in him.

2. He took our sins in his own body; and he gives us his righteousness in the new spirit created by the Holy Spirit within our old body of flesh.

3. This is the purging of the conscience spoken of in: **Hebrews 9: 14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

V7: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Listen to Hebrews 10: 16: This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is*, *there is* no more offering for sin. 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us

draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

V. WE MUST BE CALLED AND SENT TO SERVE OUR KING JESUS BY GOD.

Isaiah was called to serve the Lord as his prophet. Some are called to serve as his pastors. But all are called to serve as his witnesses. **V8: 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.**

A. After God has made us willing in the day of his power then he calls on us to willingly volunteer to be his servant.

V8: Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

B. No one has ever gone forth as a witness of God's Son who has not been "sent" by God.

1. Many have gone forth of their own accord. And a great many do so in our day. But listen to the word of the Lord. **Jeremiah 23: 20: The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly. 21: I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. 22: But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. 23: *Am* I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? 24: Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. 25: I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. 26: How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart; 27: Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal. 28: The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. 29: *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces? 30: Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. 31: Behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. 32: Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.** You see, the way to recognize "the excellency of words" and the "craftiness" of false prophets is when the power of God is divorced from the will of men, when men speak of your choice but say nothing of the fact that it is by God's power alone that you will choose him, then have they come, not with gospel fire, and the gospel hammer, but with stolen words and false dreams, lies and lightness--he says, **I sent them not.** The discerners of the

heart is the word of God--**Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

C. But this calling on us to volunteer, and the sinner's willingness to volunteer when our sovereign God calls, is not inconsistent. For it is his power in revealing Christ our Lord which makes us willing. And when he calls, all respond the same way that Isaiah did.

V8:...Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

Review:

1. We must have our idols removed.
2. We must have the glory of Christ revealed in us.
3. We must be made to confess what we are--undone and unclean.
4. We must have our conscience purged.
5. We must be called and sent of God.

These are 5 things which God does through the Holy Spirit when he makes a sinner a servant and a saint. May he cause us to cry out for his mercy to do this in us and to continue to do it for the rest of our life. Amen.