

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**Send
Me**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Lesson Eleven

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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It is interesting that we must wait until the sixth chapter of Isaiah's prophesy to hear about his call. But when we get here, we see one of the greatest of Isaiah's chapters. It is a very personal and detailed account of the calling of a prophet. Read Isaiah 6:1-5.

Though this is one of the most quoted Scriptures in the Old Testament, it is yet one which we need to fully understand. The nation in which Isaiah lived was very stable. Uzziah had been king about forty years. His reign, and the greatness of it, can be found in I Kings 15:1-78 and the twenty-seventh chapter of Second Chronicles. He brought Judah's army up to high quality. He conquered the Philistines. He developed great commercial activity with Arabia. He led recovery in the iron and copper industry centralizing it in Elath. Agriculture was improved significantly under his leadership. The nation was at peace with those around it and the people prospered. They were in the best shape that they had enjoyed since the reign of Solomon. Uzziah was a hero to Judah, and definitely to Isaiah.

When this great leader died, Isaiah finally got his eyes on the true King. This King wasn't sitting on an earthly throne, He was seated on a different throne. Isaiah said it was high and exalted. Angels flew around His throne and sang praises to Him. He is holy, He is above all others, His glory fills all the earth. Some think that these heavenly beings looked like serpents which stood up like humans, with human heads, but also looked somewhat like birds, having six wings each.

It is likely that Isaiah was serving as a priest in the Temple at the time of his vision. Suddenly he felt a strange vibration and saw a vapor of some kind fill the Temple. It was a shocking event. Just imagine that you were in a school auditorium when suddenly God appeared, surrounded by angels, the doors shook like a leaf in the wind and the whole place filled up with a cloud. It would probably get your attention very quickly. You would be stunned into silence.

Well, that's exactly what happened to Isaiah. He heard the voices and they sounded like a call to Isaiah. He immediately knew that he was face to face with "the King, the Lord of Hosts." And, Isaiah, like the rest of us when we see God, saw how weak, sinful and helpless he really was. The angels were singing about how holy God is, and Isaiah knew that he was totally unholy. Seeing it made him shout, "I am ruined." He wasn't a bad person, he was just human, and when humans are compared to Godly perfection, we see just how ugly we really are.

Then a strange thing happened. One of the angels that had been flying around the throne of God peeled off and picked up some tongs from the altar. The angel lifted a burning coal and

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brought it to touch the lips of Isaiah. Did it burn Isaiah's lips? It probably doesn't matter. What does matter is that the angel said that Isaiah needed to realize that his guilt about unclean lips was useless, because God had forgiven that. Read Isaiah 6:6-8. **Note:** *Although the New International Version does not say it, other translations say that the angel used tongs to lift the coal from the altar.*

Then, God spoke. This should make it clear that:

One, when we focus all our attention on God,

Two, when we see ourselves as we really are, sinful and useless,

Three, when we realize that our guilt and the sin that causes it are forgiven, and

Four, when we truly believe all that.

God will speak to us. And we will be in a position to hear Him.

So God said, "Whom shall I send: and who will go for us?" Some say that it sounds like God is speaking to those in eternity where He lives. Maybe to some angels or even people like Moses and Noah and Joshua who had served God and died. Though the words don't seem to be spoken directly to Isaiah, Isaiah hears them with an open heart and sees his opportunity to do God's will. His response is simply, "Send me." This person, who just moments before, standing in the presence of God, had felt doomed, is now ready to serve God and other humans.

Today, let's hear the voice of God. He is offering many, and different, kinds of service in His Kingdom. The call may not seem as if it is specifically to you. But, like Isaiah, you can respond. As a forgiven sinner, blessed by the sacrificial death of Jesus the Messiah, you can, and are worthy to, serve God and serve other humans.

What is God calling you to do today? It could be to take a message from God, based on the Bible, to those who need to hear. But, not many of us are Isaiahs. Think about it, Isaiah had no instructions as to what God wanted done, all he knew was that God needed someone to go do something. He was so grateful to God for forgiving him, he was willing to do whatever God wanted. Could that be your prayer today? Could you say, "Father, even though I am not worthy, I trust your forgiveness and am willing to go wherever you send me...across the street or around the world."

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: "And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:3

Lesson Goal: To challenge students to listen for and respond to God's call to serve.

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Student Worksheet

Send Me—Isaiah 6:1-8

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. How long did King Uzziah reign?
2. What strange things happened when Isaiah saw God in the Temple?
3. What are four things that when they happen, God will speak to us?
4. What did God say that got Isaiah's attention?
5. What did Isaiah say in response?

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How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.