

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Sent

Isaiah 6:9-13

Lesson Twelve

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Last time we discussed the call of Isaiah. We discussed his response. He said, “Send me.” When he volunteered, God told him what his job would be. Read Isaiah 6:9-13.

Isaiah had seen God and His holiness. Then, he looked at himself and saw how sinful and unholy he was. He saw himself as someone who was not speaking good and godly things...as someone who lived in a world that was unclean. If he had been asked to go at that point, he would have said, “No!” But then God sent His angel to demonstrate that Isaiah had been forgiven. And, when God forgives you, you are truly forgiven.

With that behind him, the prophet is now ready to say, “YES! I’ll go.” Even though he didn’t have a clue as to where God wanted him to go, he was sure that God was with him. He did know that it was God doing the sending.

Three things are obvious in verses nine and ten. First, God is holy, but that is not for God alone. God’s holiness is a guide to humans. Second, humans are forgiven. Even though we do not, can not, live up to God’s holiness, through our faith God makes it possible for us to be forgiven...to be holy. And third, who God is, and what He can make us to be, should lead to our going. When we have a meeting with God, we ought to come out of that meeting with a challenge to go...to do something in His name.

In verse nine, we have the beginning of a pretty confusing message. First God tells Isaiah what his mission is. He is to go and tell God’s people. Simple enough. But wait, he is to tell them to hear but not understand what they are hearing, to see but not understand what they are seeing. He goes on to tell Isaiah to make the hearts of the people fat. Fat? Fat here means insensitive or stupid. The heart, at that time, meant the mind, not necessarily the feelings as we think of today. So he was saying that instead of thinking of Godly things, they would be thinking of evil things. He is to tell them that their ears would not be listening and their eyes would be closed tight. What would happen in that case,? They would not turn to God and their sins and sicknesses would not be healed.

This sounds like God’s prophet was to show people the wrong way to respond to God. But that really doesn’t make sense. The behavior of Judah, and especially Jerusalem, was the result of Isaiah’s preaching, but not what Isaiah wanted. Have you ever told anyone to do something and they intentionally did just the opposite? That is what was going to happen here.

Isaiah is disturbed. He has been forgiven and his people are not going to be forgiven. It causes

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him to plead with God, “How long?” Isaiah understands his mission now. He understands how terrible it will be to preach a message that will turn people away from God. His plea to God comes from a heart that has seen God’s glory and wants that for his people.

But, God’s response is not encouraging. The picture painted here is of deserted cities, empty houses, the countryside growing up with weeds and useless vegetation. All would be abandoned and there would be places all around that had no people and no use.

People would be dragged away...referring to captives being taken away to other lands as slaves. They would leave behind their houses, businesses, farms and herds. What a terrible picture, and Isaiah is being told to go to a nation with that future and preach God’s judgment. Now, talk about a tough assignment; that was one.

In verse thirteen, there is a better picture. God told Isaiah that a tenth of the people would stay in the land, and they would survive the fire.

The fire takes us back to the time when God sent the angel with a hot coal to touch Isaiah’s lips. The point there is that the coal purified Isaiah’s lips and with that his life. He was forgiven. Now, the whole country is up in flames. This could mean a purifying fire burning away the sin of the people. The tenth mentioned here must refer to people who survived the war and were not taken into slavery. It seems as if they must be purified also.

Finally, there is the picture of a forest of trees burned down. But, as is true many times, the stumps of the burned trees still have life. Down in the roots the tree is still alive. It will, at some time in the future, send out new limbs. From those seemingly dead stumps will break out now life and new trees.

So, what can we get from these verses for our lives today? First, we see that some people who hear the Gospel story over and over will get hard hearts and ignore it. Second, God must judge people by how they respond to His invitation. Third, God will make things right. Fourth, where there is life, new growth will take place. There is hope for the future.

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

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Scripture Memory: “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 6:8

Lesson Goal: To show students how some people respond to God’s message.

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Student Worksheet

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

1. When God forgives you, you are truly _____.
2. What three things are obvious in verses nine and ten?
3. What is the picture painted in verses eleven and twelve?
4. What are the four things we get from these verses for our lives today?

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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.