

When God Calls

"Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'" Isaiah 6:8 NLT



- Have you ever felt a tug on your heart that God is calling you to serve Him in some way?

In Isaiah chapter 6, God calls Isaiah to be His representative, a prophet. God gives Isaiah a vision of heaven and Himself sitting on His throne. Seeing God's majesty and glory was a life-changing experience for Isaiah.

Today, God calls every Christian to represent Him. Some serve Him in full-time vocational ministries, sbc as a pastor, missionary, church planter, Bible college or seminary teacher, etc. Others He calls to represent Him as a Christian businessman or woman or whatever secular employment they have. But all of us are called to represent Him as ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor.5:20), *"So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'"* We are to help people see how to apply God's Word to their lives as they struggle spiritually and with life's problems. God can use us to help people make course corrections when straying from the Biblical patterns of life.

When God extends His call, He places a burden or compelling desire that the believer cannot ignore. Christians often say the burden is so strong that they cannot do anything else but what they are called to do. Paul expressed such a burden when he wrote: *"Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News!"* (1 Corinthians 9:16 NLT).

Isaiah 6 teaches us some lessons about God's call upon our lives.

Central Lesson: God calls us all!

1. Stay **FOCUSED** on God's Majesty (6:1-4).

"1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. 2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!' 4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke."

This glimpse of God on His throne is one of two passages that allow us to see heaven and His throne - Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4-5. (Read) Seeing God on His throne reminds us that God reigns and is in control regardless of how chaotic life and the world becomes. God is on His throne, and His purposes are marching forward. Keep your eyes on God sitting on the throne, not the corruption and turmoil of the world. Also, focus on God's majesty. Remember who He is, such as Creator, eternal, all-powerful, all-

knowing, everywhere present, loving, merciful, just, and holy (separate from sin). A study of the attributes of God is essential to our relationship with God (Recommended books: *Knowledge of the Holy* and *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer).

2. Surrender **FULLY** to God's call (6:5-8).

"5 Then I said, 'It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies.' 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 He touched my lips with it and said, 'See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.' 8 Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'"

- Isaiah needed cleaning to serve a holy God. Sin hinders us from serving God. Daily, we need to ask for God's forgiveness and fresh cleaning.
- Also, sometimes God's cleansing process is painful, like burning coal. But cleansing and healing result.
- Notice how quickly Isaiah responded to God's call to serve Him. God calls all of us to serve Him in some unique way. His calling and purpose differ for each of us, but we all have a calling. The question is - will you respond? And how long will it take you to respond - immediately or after a long period of running from God?

3. Serve **FAITHFULLY** and leave the results to God (6:9-13).

"9 And he said, 'Yes, go, and say to this people, "Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing." 10 Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.'"

Have you ever tried to talk to someone who disregards what you tell them? That is what Israel was doing to God. God repeats Himself, but when people persistently disregard what He is saying, He backs off and allows them to suffer the consequences of their indifference. He allows their hearts to harden from their rejection. He pulls back the conviction work of the Holy Spirit and allows people to believe error and their misguided opinions.

God sent Isaiah to speak to Israel even though they would not accept the message. In Israel's case, their indifference resulted in God removing His protection, and the Assyrians conquered Israel in 722 BC and Judea by the Babylonians 136 years later in 586 BC.

God's call was for Isaiah to serve Him and proclaim His message even though it would be rejected. God calls us to faithfully serve Him regardless of the results. God is not necessarily calling us to be successful (in the world's eyes), but to be faithful in serving Him.

Central Lesson: God calls us all!

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.