

“Kadosh: The Holy One”

Sermon Notes

- **In the sixth chapter of Isaiah, the prophet has a close, personal encounter with the Holy One of Israel, an encounter that will define his life and ministry.**

Although these things happened to Isaiah, they were written down for our instruction. From Isaiah's experience, we can learn four lessons about the holiness of God.

1. The awesome immensity of God's holiness. (Isa 6:1-4)

2. God opens our eyes to see our own inadequacy in the presence of the holy, inciting fear and reverence. (Isa 6:5)

3. God's gracious provision for our indemnification from our sin to make us useful in conveying His gospel message. (Isa 6:6-8)

4. The need for importunity in conveying God's message of both judgment and hope. (Isa 6:9-13)

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of July 10th - 16th

Context

This week we are focusing on God as he was revealed to the patriarchs as *Kadosh*: The Holy One.

1. Isaiah's vision takes place in the year that King Uzziah died (Isa 6:1). Uzziah was also known as Azariah (2 Kings 15:1-2; 2 Chr 26:3). How long did he reign?
 - a. Was Uzziah a good king, or a bad king? (2 Kings 15:3-4)
 - b. What did Uzziah do wrong? (2 Chr 26:1-20) Does this have something to do with holiness? (Ex 30:1-10). What was his penalty? (Lev 13:45-46; 2 Kings 15:5).
 - c. Who was ruling in Judah in the year that King Uzziah died? (2 Chr 26:21). Who was ruling in Judah after King Uzziah died? (2 Chr 26:23) Who was reigning in Israel (the northern kingdom) the year King Uzziah died? (2 Kings 15:27)
2. The death of King Uzziah marks the beginning of the Syro-Ephramite War in which the combined forces of Syria and Israel joined together to compel Judah to join their resistance to the Assyrian expansion of Tiglath-pileser III. (2 Kings 15:37)
 - a. How did the king of Judah respond when Judah was invaded? (2 Kings 16:5-9)
 - b. Is that how he should have responded? (Isa 7:3-9; 13-15)
3. There is no mention of the prophetic call of Isaiah in Isaiah 1-5. Do you think that the events in Isaiah 6 occur chronologically after the prophecy in Isa 1-5 and that this is a recommissioning? How does Isaiah's call differ from the call of Moses (Ex 3), Gideon (Jud 6) and Jeremiah (Jer 1)? How does it compare with the call of Micah ben Imlah (1 Kings 22)?

Observation

1. In this passage, God is referred to as the Lord (Isa 6:1, 8, 11), the King (Isa 6:5), YHWH Sabaoth, the LORD of hosts (6:3, 5), and YHWH (6:12). Elsewhere in Isaiah, he is most frequently referred to as the Holy One of Israel (Isa 1:4, 5:19, 24; 12:6, 17:7, 29:19; 30:11, 12, 15; 31:1; 41:14, 16, 20; 43:3; 45:11; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7; 54:5; 55:5; 60:9, 14), the Holy One (Isa 10:17; 40:25; 49:7), the Holy One of Jacob (29:23), or the Holy God (Isa 5:16).
 - a. What impact might the encounter in Isaiah 6 have had on Isaiah's appreciation for the holiness of God?
 - b. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term holy refers either to moral and spiritual excellence, or to dedication to God or a religious purpose.
 1. How does this term apply to God?
 2. The Bible also applies this term to time (Gen 2:3), places (Ex 3:5, 26:33, 34), events (Ex 12:16), groups of people (Ex 19:6), clothing (Ex 28:2), oil (Ex 30:25), food (Lev 6:17), and the name of God (Ps 30:4).
 3. Holy things are to be distinguished from common things (Lev 10:10). How does this help in understanding the meaning of holiness?

2. The text of Isa 3b, and 9b-13 has a lot of white space around it compared with the rest of the chapter. What does the different layout indicate? Do you notice any stark imagery or hyperbolic language in these sections? What is the significance of a dull heart? Blinded eyes? Heavy ears?
3. The text ends with reference to a stump and a holy seed. Is this image familiar? (See Gen 3:15; Isa 11:1; Dan 4:23-36)

Meaning

1. What is it that Isaiah sees in this vision? What does he hear? Do you think something happens to his heart?
2. Is there a connection between Isaiah's experience in verses 1-8, and his commission in verses 9-16?
3. How does the passage describe, point to, or refer back to Jesus Christ?
4. What are you supposed to learn about God from the passage?
5. If you could sum up the main point of the writer in a sentence, what would you say?

Application

1. The Israelites were commanded by God to be holy (Lev 11:44-45; Ex 19:6). Is this requirement still in force? (See 2 Cor 7:1; 1 Pet 2:9)
2. How can we be holy? (Rom 15:16)
3. What was the effect of failure to be holy on the Israelites? (See Isa 6:12) What will be the effect on those called to be saints? (1 Cor 1:2; Heb 12:14)
4. Are there any changes to my actions or the way I live being urged by the passage?