

We are in an Isaiah 6 Moment

Houses of Light Church

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September 23, 2024

We don't want to move on too quickly from what the Lord has been saying to our community so we are going to process it together by slowing down and reviewing the teachings we received and the words we believe God has spoken over our community.

Author and theologian A.W. Tozer once stated, "**What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...**For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church."

Now more than ever we need to know the truth about who God is, and by extension, the truth about who we are.

This is why we believe the Lord has been highlighting is Isaiah 6:

In a moment of grief and loss, when there were probably a lot more questions than answers among the people of God, the Lord encountered Isaiah and made him look up:

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. **Isaiah 6:1-4***

He saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on the throne.

What if in the midst of how you feel, and all the questions you have – good or bad – suddenly, you saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on the throne? What if you experienced His glory and saw the reality of His throne room right now (in the midst of all the work and tasks you have pending)?

What would you do?

How does seeing God in the fullness of His glory and majesty affect the heart of a grieving prophet? Some of us may feel special and proud, as though we really are God's chosen ones, confirming that all along we really were unique and we really were meant for more! We might even respond by posting on social media that we had a supernatural encounter with God! Others of us might feel called to stop doing anything and stay there forever, making it our life's mission to have supernatural encounters over and over again, chasing experiences with God and leaving behind the ministries we serve in the process.

But what does Isaiah do? What happens in his heart when he sees the Lord?

*Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." **Isaiah 6:5***

When Isaiah sees God for who He really is, he begins to see himself as he really is. He is honest about his brokenness and convicted about his sin.

Beholding the Lord gives us an accurate estimation of ourselves and our community.

Isaiah understands not only his own shortcomings, but that of his people and his response is genuine repentance. He doesn't stay in shame or guilt over what he has seen, but he is able to have an accurate estimation of himself as he understands the true majesty of God, and it leads to an activation that allows him to answer the Lord's calling over his life:

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 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 6:6-8

Because he responded, he is able to join in a holy conversation in heaven containing hard truths for his people: "9 And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." 11 Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste..." **Isaiah 6: 8-11**

Every time the Lord releases a word, our hearts have to respond! The Word is never neutral! We either respond by softening our hearts (like Isaiah did) or allow our hearts to grow hardened (like his people did)...

This happened in Isaiah's day and in Jesus' time in Matthew 13, which he explained after he told the parable of the sower.

The disciples were puzzled as to why he was preaching through stories, so they asked:

*"Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 **For to the one who has [understanding], more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.** 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case **the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled** that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." **Matthew 13:10-17***

Because, as his disciples, they stopped to ask and seek to understand, Jesus explained the parable to them:

*"18 "Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." **Matthew 13:18-23***

These are the kinds of responses people can have to the Word:

1. They don't understand, and the word gets snatched away.
2. They joyfully receive the word but forget or let go of what they received when life gets hard or when what they believe comes into question.
3. They receive the word but get caught up in worry, anxiety, and believing money will solve all our problems. If they have anxiety and they believe their hard work or finances will solve their problems, they can end up living in that reality instead of the word God gave them.
4. They receive it and allow it to change them and the way they live their lives, then they get even more!

We all fall into one of these responses, and in fact at times, we have all probably been all 4. The point of the Isaiah moment is that he let the moment he had with God change him and affect the way he lived the rest of his life! What will we do with what we have been given?

What our friend Benji spoke two weeks ago was this: **We are a church of good sowers with good seed and good soil! Be planted here!** Learn about what God is doing here and let yourself become part of it. Let your roots grow and see what happens when you stay planted in one place.

God is doing something special here, you get to decide whether or not to embrace and let it change your life!

If you're doubting whether to stay, this is who we are — what you give into by letting your roots be planted here:

1. Discipleship — We give ourselves to learning, leadership, and feedback so we can grow more and more into the likeness of Christ and help others do the same.
2. Restoration — of families and of the heart— we open up our lives, our hearts, and our homes so the Lord can bring healing to our families and to others through our families!
3. Prayer — we don't want to do anything God is not doing — our priority is to stay in conversation with Him!

What would happen if you stayed and allowed yourself to grow some roots?

What would happen if you allowed your heart to soften and respond instead of hardening/questioning today?

— This is who we are as a church and what we are committed to doing always: seeking God so we can see Him rightly, and allowing that reality to affect our lives and transform our hearts, such that we would be good soil where His word can bear much fruit!

Reflection Questions:

1. **How can you have a revelation that he is sitting on the throne?**
2. **What kind of terrain do you consider yourself and why?**
3. **Have you wholeheartedly embraced Houses of Light? Why or why not?**

Announcements:

1. You can still sign up for School of Discipleship and Affirming Your Steps — online or in the lobby before you leave tonight.
2. In October we have a family festival called Hallelujah Night! We need candy donations and volunteers to help us! If you'd like to join the team, talk to our kids ministry leaders and/or bring a bag of candy to our next service!
3. For more information on joining a friendship group, the resources we have available for you, and how you can be part of the community, visit us online at housesoflight.church .