

## Ready For God's Use? (Part 1) – Isaiah 6:1-5

Is 6 (p.571); I want to talk to you about serving the Lord; As in living your life for his purposes and his glory; Always ready to be used; Always ready to do his will  
Hence the title of the message (**Intro**)

And when you get right down to it, there are 3 main groups in that respect  
Those who are *already* ready – always available and already serving  
Those who *want* to, who want to serve in some capacity but aren't ready; They have the desire, but lack the preparation

And third, are those who could care less  
Those who operate under the false premise that they were saved to sit, instead of saved to serve; Or think that other things in life are more important; Or don't think at all  
In which case they're the *furthest* thing from being ready for God's use

3 groups that encompass every single one of us; And Isaiah's example couldn't be more appropriate to learn from; V1-5

• *In the year that King Uzziah died* [~740BC, right at the beginning of Isaiah's ministry] *I saw the Lord* [he said] *sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. [2] Above him stood the seraphim* [fiery angelic beings]. *Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. [3] And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory* [or may his glory fill the whole earth; either way, it's a desire to see God's presence manifested or shown, throughout all creation]!"

[4] *And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called* [the voice of the angels], *and the house was filled with smoke* [which is similar to the cloud that filled the tabernacle in Moses' day, and the temple in Solomon's; conveying both the glorious *presence* of God, and the shrouded *mystery* of God]. [5] *And I said: "Woe is me* [IOW I'm to be pitied]! *For I am lost* [ruined, destroyed]; *for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"* Let's stop there

We find out *later* in the chapter that Isaiah was ready for God's use, but that's not where he started; He started by seeing God for who he is

And *that's* step one for you and me as well . . .

### See God for who he is (v1-4)

B/c if you're not gripped by his greatness, you won't even *want* to serve him; Let alone be ready

And just to be clear, I'm not talking about being ready for a life-changing, career-ending, house-selling move around the world; Or going into full-time ministry somehow  
That could be the case; But in general I'm not talking about that

I'm talking about being ready for God's use *all* the time; 24-7; Right here  
I'm talking about being ready to do the *little* things in life, as *well* as the big ones  
I'm talking about being a blessing in your workplace, a testimony in your school, a role model in your community, and a servant in our church

I'm talking about being ready to do whatever's needed, at a moment's notice  
I'm talking about doing whatever it is that God *wants* you to do – no matter how big, how often, how public, or how private

- And it starts, with seeing God as the **King of kings** that he is  
In v1 Isaiah says – *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up*; Which clues us in to his kingship  
B/c that's what kings do – they sit on thrones; They rule  
And at the end of v5 Isaiah's explicit about it – *my eyes have seen the King*  
All of which confirms what we know from the rest of Scripture – that he's a king

And not just any king, but *the* King; The King of kings who rules all others, and above whom there is no other, b/c he's *high and lifted up*  
The question is, do you see him that way? And is he *your* King?

- He was for a man named S.M. Lockridge; Born in 1913, S.M. Lockridge was a pastor who served Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego for 40 years  
Eventually retiring in 1993 at the age of 80, before dying 7 years later

But not before he preached a message titled, "That's My King"  
Part of which is captured on one of my favorite videos ever, b/c it helps me see God for who he is; And though I showed it about 6 years ago in a message . . .  
I think it's worth an encore; Take a look (**That's My King**)

Is he *your* King? Does it show? Or is he just another religious figure in your mind?  
I hope not; B/c in that case you'll *never* be ready for his use

- He's King of kings, and second, he's **Lord of lords**  
Isaiah says in v1 – *I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne*  
And refers to him in v3 and the end of v5, as *the LORD of hosts*; Lord of all; God Almighty; That's the idea

And the interesting thing here, is what the Apostle John said about all this  
In **John 12:41**, he's talking about Jesus, and says that – *Isaiah said these things* [referring to Is 6:10 that John had just quoted] *because he* [Isaiah] *saw his glory and spoke of him*.  
Whose glory? Jesus' glory; John was talking about Jesus

IOW it was the glory of *Christ* that Isaiah saw and spoke of here in Is 6  
Whether that means he actually saw a vision of Jesus pre-incarnate, or that the glory of the Father and the glory of the Son are one and the same – either way, he's Lord  
Even then, he was Lord; God Almighty; One and the same\*\*\*\*\*

- And when you put his kingship and lordship together with the fullness of his glory and majesty (**full of glory**) – as shown by the *train of his robe* filling the temple (v1b) . . .  
And combine that with the awesome display of *power* (**accompanied by power**) that accompanies him – the power of angelic voices (v4) . . .  
That shook the ground on which Isaiah stood . . .  
And then throw in the *mystery* that surrounds him (**shrouded in mystery**) – with the smoke filling the house, the house of the Lord (v4b) . . .

And add to that the *reverence* that's shown him (**deserving of reverence**) by virtue of the angels covering their face and feet in v2 – acts of awe and respect . . .

When you put *all* that together – that he's full of glory, accompanied by power, shrouded in mystery, and deserving of reverence . . .

It's no wonder the angels find him **worthy of worship**; Calling "*Holy, holy, holy is [Yahweh Almighty]; the whole earth is full of his glory!*"

Put all that together and he's worthy of worship

- So how about it? Do you see what I see? Do you see what the angels see? Do you see what Isaiah saw?  
I hope so; Otherwise you'll never be ready  
You'll stumble along from one disappointment in life to another, and constantly wonder what happened and why  
When the answer is right in front of you, *high and lifted up*; See him for who he is
- And one more thing – why *holy* in v3? Of all the attributes, why that one?  
Why not merciful, loving, and just? Or steadfast, gracious, and forgiving?  
Why just *holy*; And 3 times at that?

B/c apparently, when you're in God's presence, one thing and one thing alone stands out more than any other – his holiness  
His piercing purity, his searing sanctity, and his consuming nature like that of a fire  
It's overwhelming, and unavoidable

Which means any indifference on your part only shows that you haven't experienced it for what it is; If you're not overwhelmed by the holiness of God, you haven't seen him  
And the threefold repetition is intended to open your eyes by intensifying the point all the more (**Summary**); Will you do it?

Open the eyes of your heart and see him for who he is  
And if you already have, fix your gaze and never waver  
It's the first step toward being ready for his use

Second, is to . . .

#### **See yourself for who you are (v5)**

If you're going to be ready for God's use, you have to see yourself for who you are  
That's v5; Where in response to God and his holiness, Isaiah said: *Woe is me!*  
It's an expression of utter despair; As in, pitied am I

*Woe is me! For I am lost* [he said]; As in ruined, finished, **undone**, destroyed  
I've seen the King, and that's it; Game over man; I'm dead; Just dead

#### *For I am a man of unclean lips*

You see, Isaiah was not only overwhelmed by God's greatness and holiness, but he was broken by his own *sinfulness* in light of it  
IOW he was undone and **unclean**; Unclean b/c the mouth reflects the heart  
*What comes out of the mouth* [Jesus said] *proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person* (Mt 15:18)  
He was unclean, and knew it

Which made him **unfit** to speak; Unfit to speak to the people on *behalf* of God, and certainly unfit to speak in the *presence* of God

And to get the full force of his confession, you have to look back at chapter 5, where he spent 23 verses railing on those around him for *their* sins . . .

And declaring woe and judgment on *them* – while basically exempting himself

It's called self-righteousness; And it wasn't until he saw himself in the light of *God's* righteousness, that he recognized it  
That he saw himself for who *he* was, instead of seeing others for who *they* were

- Isaiah was *undone* before *God*; *Unclean* in his sin; *Unfit* to speak; And **exposed** b/c of the sin of others; He was exposed  
*I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips* he said  
Suddenly realizing that he wasn't exempt from being affected by the sin of those around him; And that he was exposed to their consequences as well  
Not the ultimate consequences of course – but the temporal ones, the earthly ones

And the same is true of us; We stand to suffer in this life due to the sin of our neighbors  
Like when we're hit by a drunk driver; Or when we suffer large scale disasters  
Whether allowed by God as part of the fallen world in which we live, or ordained by God as acts of judgment . . .  
Either way, they're the consequences of other people's sin  
The fallen world due to Adam's sin; And acts of judgment due to who knows whose sin; Maybe even our own

Which is one of the reasons we should pray for our country, and advocate godliness in our culture; B/c though we're *ultimately* safe in the arms of God as believers . . .  
We're still exposed until we get there; Dwelling in the midst of unclean people (**Summ**)

- Have you ever seen yourself that way? Undone, unclean, unfit, and exposed?  
Are you painfully aware that apart from Christ, you still are?

It's kind of like that feeling of utter despair and brokenness when you get caught doing something wrong; And you're stuck; And there's no way out  
And you wish you were dead; Ya know what I'm talking about?

- I've experienced that several times in my life, one of which happened when I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Those were the days when I used to walk to and from school . . .  
About a mile, uphill, both ways, through the rain and sleet and snow

And on one particular day my friend and I came up with the brilliant idea to throw rocks at an elderly lady, who lived below a high bluff that overlooked her backyard  
We thought we'd have a little fun; Just wanted to see what would happen; I was an idiot  
But oh did we laugh as she ducked the first few and stepped into her house  
And we reveled in all the way home

Until I got there, and discovered that in the intervening 10 minutes, she had called my parents, and my Dad just happened to be home early that day  
If I ever doubted the sovereignty of God, that sealed it  
And the second he confronted me on it, I thought – I, am dead; Just dead

In fact, had the words been a part of my vocabulary, I would have thought – *woe is me*

And though I don't remember *all* the punishment, I do remember wanting to throw up as my Dad drove me over to her house to make me apologize

And you gotta understand something – I didn't know this lady

But in my little imagination, combined with the fears of an 8 year old kid who slept with a souvenir bat and a BB gun under his bed . . .

I thought she was the closest thing to a witch I had ever seen; And Harry Potter didn't even exist yet

But there I was at her front door, knocking as quietly as I could, and hoping beyond hope she wouldn't hear; But she did; And she opened it without saying a word

And somehow I squeaked out the words – “I'm sorry for throwing rocks at you; Will you forgive me?”

Dead; Just dead; Undone

B/c I that moment I saw myself for who I was, in light of someone who had done me no harm

- Now put yourself in Isaiah's shoes, and imagine that someone being God  
No wonder he cried out in utter despair; He was ruined – ruined for life  
And thank God for it, b/c it made him ready for his use  
And you can be too – if you see him for who he is, and yourself in his light (**Summary**)

Pray – God, open our eyes – we want to see you; More and more; High and lifted up; Full of glory, and honor, and wisdom, and power; We confess you as King of kings and Lord of lords; Help us to see ourselves in your light; And find us ready, always ready, for your use