Available: Here I am Lord.

Isaiah 6:8  Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Availability

• They say that necessity is the mother of invention
  
  • but a lot of time it is availability
    
    • that gives rise to ingenuity.
  
• Sometimes you just have to use
  
  • what you have available,
    
    • regardless of if it was made
      
      • for that purpose or not.
  
  • Availability is what turns pocketknives
    
    • into screwdrivers
      
      • and it is what turns wrenches
        
        • into hammers.
  
  • And it is what turns an imperfect man
    
    • Into God’s perfect vessel.

• Both in the divine realm
  
  • And in our daily existence
    
    • It is not always about
      
      • what is most perfectly suited
        
        • for the task at hand,

    • more often than not
      
      • it is more about
        
        • what you have available
          
          • that you can use right now
            
            • to accomplish your task.

• A man once applied for a job as a handyman.
  
  • The prospective employer asked,
    
    • "Can you do carpentry?"
      
      • The man said no.

    • "How about bricklaying?"
      
      • Again the man answered, "No."

    • The employer asked,
      
      • "Well, what about electrical work?"
        
        • The man said,
          
          • "No, I don’t know anything about that either."

    • Finally the employer said,
      
      • "Well, then tell me what is handy about you."

    • The man replied,
• "I live just around the corner."

• Sometimes the greatest ability
  - That we can have
    - is our availability.
  - To be where God can call us,
    - to be available to be used by him,
      - is what he needs from us
        - more than anything else.
• God is not necessarily looking for the perfect fit
  - or the most qualified person.
• He is just looking for someone
  - who is available to be used by him.

• God has a plan for Lake City.
  - He only needs a person
    - who will give him license to work
      - through his or her life.

• Abraham was a liar.
  - Moses was murderer.
    - Gideon was a coward.
  - Rahab was a harlot.
    - Peter had anger issues.
  - Paul was self-righteous.
• None of the men and women
  - that God used in the pages of the Bible
    - were perfect.
  - As a matter of fact many of them
    - were very flawed.
• But they all shared one common characteristic.
  - They made themselves available to God.
• God didn't choose Mary
  - to become the mother of the Messiah
    - because she was perfect.
• God chose her
  - because he knew
    - that when the angel made her
      - an impossible, improbable, promise
    - her response would be,
      - “be it unto me according to your word.”
  - In other words,
    - she was willing to make herself available.
• Over and over and over again,
  o God works where men and women
    ▪ make themselves available to him.
• He does the impossible,
  o works incredible miracles,
    ▪ rends the heavens
      • and rains down his glory
  o for people who determine
    ▪ that they are willing to be
      • a part of his plan.
  o He doesn’t need perfection,
    ▪ what he needs is availability!
  o HE needs
    ▪ Hands to touch with
      • Hearts to care with
    ▪ Eyes to see with
      • And a mouth to speak through.

A Year Of Availability
• I really believe
  o that God wants to give us
    ▪ unprecedented revival.
• I’ve preached it for years.
  o We are overdue for a mighty move of God.
• We’ve struggled long enough.
  o We’ve been stuck right here
    ▪ for far too long.
  o It is time for a breakthrough,
    ▪ it is time for a mighty move of God,
  o it is time for souls to be saved
    ▪ and lives to be changed.

• I came to this pulpit tonight to tell somebody,
  o God wants to do it.
    ▪ He wants to send us a revival.
      • He wants to touch the hurting,
        ▪ bring peace to the troubled
          ▪ and speak hope to the hopeless.
  o The only thing holding back
    ▪ the hand of God
      • is a willing vessel.

• Isaiah said it first
  o but the question comes echoing thru time:
God will work,
  • who will let him?
  o God is looking for somebody
    ▪ that will make themselves available.
  o Someone that will become a vessel
    ▪ through which he can work.

• What about you?
  o Will you let him work?
    ▪ Will you let him pour out his spirit
      • through your life?
    ▪ Will you let him anoint you
      • for his purpose?

• I’ve often heard it said
  o that God has everything he needs.
    ▪ He doesn’t need a thing.
• However, when I look through the pages
  o of the word of God
• I am reminded that there is one thing
  o that God needs:
    ▪ He needs a man, woman, or child
      • that will let him work through their life.
  o He doesn’t need education.
    ▪ He doesn’t need riches or wealth.
  o He doesn’t need talent or ability.
    ▪ But before he will work
      • in the realm of humanity,
    ▪ he needs a man
      • who will make himself available,
    ▪ a woman who will say,
      • be it unto me Lord,
        ▪ according to your word.

God Uses Available People
• Did you ever wonder why,
  o when Jonah ran from God,
    ▪ why God didn’t just go tell Nineveh himself?
  o Why go to the trouble of creating the storm
    ▪ and moving the whale into place?
  o For a God that can do anything that he wants,
    ▪ it seems like an awful lot of trouble to go thru
      • in order to get a rebellious prophet
        ▪ to go speak to Nineveh.
• Did you ever wonder why God
  o made Noah labor to build an Ark?
• Why not just hold them in his hand
  • or put them on a mountain top
    o and shelter them?

• Did you ever wonder why
  o God was longsuffering with Moses,
    • even after he tried to persuade God
      • not to send him to Egypt?
  o Why did God bother with him?
    • Why not descend on Pharaoh’s palace
      • in a whirlwind
        o and demand the release
          • of His own people?

• Did you ever wonder why,
  o when it came to the saving of the World
    • God looked first for a man?
  o And when he found none worthy
    • – he became a man, himself!
      • God robed himself in flesh, as a man,
        o and brought salvation
          • and righteousness
            • to a lost world.

• The bible is replete with examples
  o that demonstrate to us
    • that very time God seeks
      • to activate his will in this world
        o He uses a man.
          • Not just some of the time.
            • All of the time.
  o He chooses a vessel of frail human flesh
    • to become the conduit
      • thru which he moves.
  o He’s proven over and over again
    • that he will pursue a man
      • to the ends of the earth
    • in order to obtain a vessel
      • through which he can minister
        o mercy and grace.

• Why does God refuse to act on his own
  o without the vehicle of humanity?

• Why is God so relentless
  o in his pursuit of a man to fulfill his will?
    • Why does God try so hard
• to obtain a man
  o that will let him work through him?
• Way back in the first chapter of the Bible,
  o God gave Adam dominion over the earth.
    • He’s a sovereign God,
    • He rules all that is.
    • He has dominion and authority over everything
      • – even the devil.
  o But when he created man,
    • he created him to fellowship with him.
      • He made man the master
        o of his own domain.
      • He granted to him dominion
        o over the earth.
• When Satan sought to subvert the plan of God,
  o to tarnish God’s creation
    • He went to the one who had dominion.
  o When Adam yielded his will to Satan
    • Satan utilized Adam’s dominion
      • to bring sin into the world.
• Romans 5:12 tells us
  o that by one man sin entered into the world,
    • and death by sin
  o Notice, it wasn’t by Satan
    • or by Satan’s authority.
  o But it was by Man’s dominion
    • that sin entered the world.
  o It was man’s authority
    • that brought condemnation
      • and judgment to the world.
• Romans 5:19 then clues us into the reason
  o why God is so unyielding
    • in his pursuit of a human vessel
      • through which to bring
        o mercy and grace to the world.
  o For as by one man’s disobedience
    • many were made sinners,
      • so by the obedience of one
        o shall many be made righteous.
  o Sin entered by man’s authority
    • and sin can only be stopped
      • by man’s authority.
• God has chosen to deliver grace and mercy
  o in the realm of humanity
Notes by Pastor Tony McCall
The Pentecostals of Lake City

- through the venue of Adam’s dominion.
  - Salvation from God
    - will only come through
      - the vehicle of a man.
  - Revival will always flow
    - through the conduit of men and women
      - who make themselves available to God.
  - That’s why God went looking for a man,
    - and finding none
      - he became one.
    - That’s why God was persistent
      - in his pursuit of Jonah.
    - That’s why God made Noah
      - build an Ark.
    - That’s why God was patient with Moses.
      - Because God has chosen
        - to bring deliverance
          - through the vessel of humanity.

- I want you to know, tonight,
  - that God has a plan
    - for revival in Lake City.
- God wants to pour out his spirit
  - and set the captives free.
    - But he’s looking for a person
      - that he can use to fulfill his plan.
    - He’s looking for someone
      - who will make themselves available.
- He’s a sovereign God
  - But he won’t touch a soul in this city
    - unless we touch them first.
  - He won’t take one person by the arm
    - and lead them to the house of God,
      - unless it’s your hand
        - that reaches out to them.
    - He won’t invite one person to come
      - unless it’s your voice
        - that speaks to them.
- God is looking for a person
  - that he can use to touch our world!
    - He’s looking for a Jonah
      - that will declare a word of warning
        - to a people that are facing judgment.
    - He’s looking for a willing voice
• that will go to a people
  o and preach the gospel.

  o He’s looking for a Noah
    ▪ that will declare to a lost world
    ▪ that there is a way of escape.
    ▪ A human vessel that will declare
      ▪ that there is a way of salvation.

  o This is why God had Noah
    ▪ build the large spectacle of an Ark.
      ▪ Because he was a constant evangelist.
        o The whole time he was building,
          ▪ he was preaching a way of escape.
      ▪ He would swing that old hammer
        o and declare,
          ▪ you need to repent
            ▪ and change your ways.

  o God’s looking for a Moses
    ▪ that will stand in the Gap
      ▪ and declare, “Let my people Go.”

  o A human vessel that’s willing
    ▪ to be an intercessor
      ▪ to plead for the liberty of a generation
        o that is bound in the slavery of Sin.
      ▪ Someone who is willing
        ▪ to stand between heaven and earth
          o and hold back judgment
            ▪ while declaring liberty and freedom
              ▪ to those that are lost.

  o God has a plan and, this evening,
    ▪ he’s looking for a man or a woman
      ▪ who is willing to be available.

  o Someone who will allow
    ▪ God’s will to come to fruition
      ▪ in their life.
    ▪ He’s looking for a vessel
      ▪ of mercy and grace.
        o An individual that will let him work.
      ▪ One willing soul to say,
        ▪ here I am Lord,
          ▪ work thru me.

God doesn’t need much.
  • He spoke the worlds into existence
    ▪ by the authority of his own voice.
• He created all that is
  o out of nothing at all.
• The heavens are his
  o and the earth beneath.
  ▪ All things answer to his authority.
  o The winds hear his voice and obey.
    ▪ The tides respond to his command.
  o The moon and the stars rise and fall
    ▪ according to his voice
      ▪ and his timetable.
• But in this one thing God has a need.
  o God needs a man that will let him work.
    ▪ God gave Peter a specific commission
      o to go to Cornelius
        ▪ and introduce this gospel
          ▪ to the Gentile people.
    o Cornelious was a righteous man.
      ▪ So righteous that God sent an angel to him.
        ▪ Why didn't God just share
          ▪ this truth with him?
    o He needed a man!
      ▪ He sent Peter to bring liberty to Cornelius
        ▪ and his household.
      o Because in matters pertaining to salvation,
        ▪ God has chosen to use the vessel of a man.
• God is looking for a group of people
  o that are willing to commit to his service.
    ▪ He's looking for someone
      ▪ that is willing to stand in the gap.
    ▪ He’s looking for someone
      ▪ that is willing to fight hell.
    ▪ He’s looking for someone
      ▪ that is willing to snatch souls
        ▪ from the jaws of the enemy.
    ▪ He’s looking for someone
      ▪ that is willing to love
        ▪ Willing to care
          ▪ Willing to lend a helping hand.
• I want you to know tonight
  o that there is a work
    ▪ that only you can do!
  o There is a part of God’s plan
    ▪ that can only be accomplished by you.
  o If you don’t do it, it won’t get done.
• There are souls that only you can reach.
  • There are folks that only you can touch.
    o You are important to God’s plan!
  o It’s high time
    ▪ you made yourself available to God!

• This year will be a year of availability.
  o We are going to seek the face of God
    ▪ Not for our agenda
      • but for His
    ▪ Not for what we want
      • but for what he wants.
  o Sometimes we get that out of whack.
    ▪ We treat God like
      • he’s the genie in the bottle
        o who has nothing better to do
          ▪ than to grant our every wish.
    ▪ But the scripture says
      • that if we will seek first the kingdom of God,
        o if we will first make ourselves
          ▪ available to him
            • for his plan,
          o everything else
            ▪ that we need in this life
              • will be taken care of.
    ▪ He will provide for us
      • if we will make ourselves
        o available to him.

• In 2016 God is looking for someone he can use
  o to fulfill his plan
    ▪ and purpose in our world.
  o He is looking for someone
    ▪ who will make themselves available.

• In the sixth chapter of Isaiah
  o we find the prophet in the temple.
• Three things happened there
  o that transformed the life of Isaiah.
• First he saw God.
  o King Uzziah had died
    ▪ but Isaiah discovered that the greatest King
      • was still seated on the throne of heaven.
    ▪ God was still on the throne and reigning
      • as the Sovereign of the universe!
  o From heaven’s point of view,
“the whole earth”
• was “full of His glory”.

- After seeing God,
  o he saw himself.
    ▪ The sight of a holy God
      • brought great conviction to Isaiah’s heart;
        o and he confessed that he was a sinner.
  o Isaiah cried out to be cleansed inwardly,
    ▪ and God met his need.
  o Before we can minister to others,
    ▪ we must permit God to minister to us.
  o Before we can show others the way,
    ▪ we must first find the way.
- Next Isaiah saw the need.
  o The whole story revolves around this.
    ▪ The nation needed the Lord,
      • and the Lord needed a servant
        o to minister to the people.
  o God was looking for someone
    ▪ who would make themselves available.

- Isaiah, after first seeing his own need, saw the need of his people.
  o And when the word of the Lord came saying,
    ▪ “Whom shall I send,
      • and who will go for us?”
    ▪ Isaiah didn’t hesitate to say,
      • “Here am I; send me.”
        o I am available.
          ▪ Use me Lord!
- I don’t believe God’s desire has changed one bit.
  o It’s a different world in 2016
    ▪ than it was in Isaiah’s day.
  o But the need is no less,
    ▪ the lost are still lost,
      • and God still wants to move.
  o There is still a voice calling out from heaven.
    ▪ Who will go,
      • whom shall I send…

Apollo 13
- It was the dawn of a new era.
  o Man had finally conquered the last frontier.
  o The Apollo 13 mission
    ▪ was supposed to have been
      • the third lunar landing mission.
• The third time that man
  • would walk on the moon.

• However, something went dreadfully wrong.
  o There was an explosion
    • in one of the oxygen tanks
    • that crippled the vessel
  • and resulted in the most famous broadcasts
    • in the history of radio communications:
      o Houston, we have a problem.

• What followed was one
  o of the most incredible stories
    • of ingenuity and resourcefulness
    • in the face of immanent disaster.

• The explosion forced the three astronauts
  o to retreat into the landing module.
    • Problem after problem
      • had to be overcome
        o by the creativity of the crew
          • and their counterparts
            • back on earth at Mission Control.

• One particular problem
  o was the buildup of carbon dioxide
    • in the landing module.
  o It was not built to support the whole crew
    • for an extended period of time
      • and its air scrubbers did not have
        o enough filter life
          • to keep the air breathable
            • for as long as it would take
              o to get back to earth.

• As it turns out, they had plenty of filters
  o to fit a square air scrubber
    • but not enough to fit
      • the round air scrubber
        o that they were forced to rely on.
  o Before long it became apparent
    • that, unless they discovered a way
      • to make a round peg
        o fit into a square hole,
          • the crew was going to die in space.

• In that critical moment,
• they needed a miracle.

• Their search for an answer
  • was never about being able
    ▪ to come up with the perfect solution.
    • There was no perfect solution.

• Instead it was about using
  • what they had available
    ▪ to meet the need that was at hand.

• Mission Control put together
  • an emergency team
    ▪ and told them they had 24 hours
      • to solve the problem
  • using only the type of equipment and tools
    • the crew had on board
      ▪ which was limited to plastic bags,
        o cardboard,
          ▪ suit hoses,
            ▪ and duct tape.

• With those simple ingredients
  • the team created a workable solution.

• Astronaut Jim Lovell,
  • who was on the Apollo 13 mission,
    ▪ later wrote,
      o “The contraption (they came up with)
        ▪ wasn’t very handsome,
          • but it worked.”

• The crew of Apollo 13 was saved
  • because they figured out
    ▪ how to use what was available
      • to meet the need
        o that was before them.

• Let me let you in on a little secret tonight:
  • God isn’t looking for a perfect person
    ▪ to use in 2016.
  • He isn’t looking
    ▪ for someone who has it all figured out
      • and has everything perfectly in order.
  • He’s just looking for what is available.
    ▪ He will use whatever he can lay his hand on
      • in order to bring about the revival
        o that this city needs.
    ▪ He only needs a willing vessel.
  • Give him a widow
• and her nearly empty meal pot
  • and he can work a miracle of provision.
  o Give him a lad
    • with a few fishes and loaves
      • and he will feed a great multitude.
  o Give him one single willing life
    • and he will turn the world upside down.

• God is looking for someone
  o who will make themselves available.
• This year, the Pentecostals of Lake City
  o are going to be exactly
    • what he is looking for.
• We will make ourselves available.
  o Available to pray.
    • Available to serve.
  o Available to speak.
    • Available to go.
  o Available to do.
    • Available to be used.
      • Available…

Close
• Today, there is a clarion call going forth
  o from the throne of God.
    • I can hear it in my spirit.
      • God will work, who will let him?
  o It is not a question
    • Of the will of God.
      • God is willing.
  o *The real question is*
    • *who will get their flesh crucified*
  o *so God can show:*
    • *the lost*
      • *that He is the Savior;*
    • *the sick*
      • *that He is the Healer;*
    • *the hopeless*
      • *that He is the answer;*
    • *the lonely*
      • *that He is the friend*
        o *that sticks closer than a brother;*
    • *the broken hearted*
      • *that He is the only one*
        o *who can put the broken pieced*
Available: Here I Am Lord

- back together again;
  - those who are bound in darkness
    - that He is the Light of the world.
- God will do it all
  - if he can just find a willing vessel
    - A conduit through which he can work.
- Who will answer his call?
  - Who will make themselves available.
    - Who will say,
      - “Here I am Lord.
        - Send me.”