

## **THE HEART OF WORSHIP.**

Isaiah 6:1-8.

July 16, 2006 Sunday a.m.

### **INTRODUCTION.**

- A. Warren Buffett is the second richest man in the world, with an estimated worth of \$44 billion. In June 2005, Buffett decided to help raise money for his charitable foundation by offering an online auction for someone to have lunch with him. The winning bid was \$351,100 - the cost of coming into his presence.
- B. According to George Barna, "Eight out of every ten believers do not feel they have entered into the presence of God, or experienced a connection with Him, during the worship service."
- C. In the sixth chapter of Isaiah, the prophet Isaiah tells us three things we can do to come into the presence of God when we worship.

### **I. FIRST, FOCUS ON GOD.**

- A. Sometimes we focus on other things than God when we worship.
  - 1. Some focus on other people instead of God.
    - a. One woman told a staff member she just couldn't get into worship today because of what the pastor had done. What the pastor had done was to get into a disagreement with her husband in a committee meeting.
    - b. Ironically, her husband had gotten past the disagreement, and in fact had said, "I don't come to church to worship Bob", "I come to worship God." His wife, however, focused on her resentment of the pastor instead of focusing on God.
  - 2. Some focus on critiquing the worship service instead of focusing on God. In many of our churches we should replace the "call to worship" with a "call to evaluation".
  - 3. Still others focus on music instead of focusing on God.
    - a. Matt Redman is a song leader in England. He has written several well known songs - "Better is One Day", "I Am Yours", and "Let My Words Be Few."
    - b. His pastor thought the church's focus was on music more than on God, so he led the church to "fast" from music for several months. Absolutely no music was sung or played in the church during this time. The church learned many other ways to worship without music. Eventually, music was once again used in the church. Matt Redman wrote another popular song detailing what he had learned about worship. Its named "The Heart of Worship."
    - c. Worship isn't a song or a sermon. These are only vehicles to usher us into the presence of God.
- B. What should we focus on instead of focusing on other people or music? Isaiah shows us.
  - 1. Instead of focusing on other things, focus on God's majesty-v.1.
  - 2. Instead of focusing on other things, focus on God's holiness-v.3a.
  - 3. Instead of focusing on other things, focus on God's glory-v.3b.
- C. What can we expect to happen when we focus on God? V.4.

### **II. SECOND, FOCUS ON SIN.**

- A. When Isaiah focused on God he also began to focus on himself and he didn't like what he saw-v.5.
- B. Peter did too-Luke 5:8.
- C. When we focus on our sin and acknowledge it we put ourselves in the position to receive God's grace - vv. 6-7.

### **III. THIRD, FOCUS ON SERVICE.**

- A. When Isaiah focused on God and his sin, he recognized his need to serve God-v.8.
- B. Worshipping God and working for God go hand in hand.

### **CONCLUSION.**

- A. We don't need a concert atmosphere to enter into worship.
- B. We don't need a band, a charismatic song leader, or a dynamic pastor, or anything else.
- C. We just need to focus on....

1. God and his majesty.
2. Our sin.
3. Our service.