

Isaiah 6:1-8: Encountering God

Tommy Meador / General Adult

Connecting Faith to Life / Isaiah 6:1–8

Introduction

- <https://globalnews.ca/news/8911662/disney-apologizes-employee-interrupts-marriage-proposal-paris/>
- The most magical place on earth? Not on this day. Whether the employee was right or wrong, you can't do whatever you want at Disney. It's a special place.
- You are in a sacred place NOT because there's something special about this building but because God's people are together in this place.
- You are experiencing a sacred moment - the God of all creation is present with us. Together, we are encountering the living God.
- Gathering to worship is serious because of who we are encountering and what He wants in our lives.
- Corporate worship is not a classroom, not a group therapy session, not a concert, not a group meet up, and not a pep rally. Corporate worship is the gathering of the people of God in the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords. It's a big deal.
- But, sometimes it doesn't feel like a big deal. We come with lack of expectation, or with no desire for God to change us, or we treat these moments like any other event: casually.
- Next four weeks, we're going to talk about the four priorities of our disciple's pathway as we approach covenant Sunday: Encounter God, Experience Community, Equip Disciples, Engage the World.

- This morning, looking at a famous passage that helps us to understand what it means to encounter God. Three expectations you should have when you gather for worship at Northwood.

Expect to encounter the holiness of God.

- Prophets were spokespeople for God. God used the prophets to point out sin, warn people of coming judgement and call them to repentance.
- When Isaiah prophesies, Israel had been divided into two kingdoms: Judah (southern) and Israel (northern).
- First 5 chapters - Judgment coming for Judah. While they had been prosperous, they were in spiritual decline.
- vs. 1 - “In the year King Uzziah died.” King Uzziah had reigned for over 50 years in Judah. Mostly good king. Judah prospered under his reign. Towards end of life, became prideful. Tried to take on the role of priest. God struck him with leprosy.
- The death of a king that had led the nation to experience much prosperity triggered a time of national mourning and uncertainty.
- The nation was in spiritual decline. Would there be economic decline? Would their enemies take advantage of them in this time of uncertainty?
- In a time of uncertainty, God appears to Isaiah in a vision. “I saw the Lord...”
- , Isaiah unprepared for what he saw. God, in the temple, high and lifted up on His heavenly throne.
- God is so grand and so majestic that just the edge of His royal robe fills the entire temple.
- Isaiah, nor Judah, doesn't not need to worry. They have a king who is far more majestic and powerful than Uzziah or any other king Judah has

ever known. They have a King who will never die and never abandon them.

- Seraphim surround His presence - angelic beings created by God who serve God. We're not told how many - perhaps thousands.
- Six wings -with two they cover their faces - They're not worthy to look upon the glorious King. With two they covered their feet - the lowliest part of the body can't be seen by God. With two they flew - active and ready to do the Lord's will.
- "Holy, holy, holy" - only adjective that's repeated thrice. Not "Love, love, love" or "Mercy, mercy, mercy..." God is uniquely different than His creation. He is high above. There is NONE like Him.
- "His glory fills the whole earth." God's glory touches everything. You can see His glory in what He has made.
- vs. 4 - at the very sound of the seraphim's voice - the foundations of the doorways shake - the temple filled with smoke.
- God is great. He is powerful. He is in control. He demands your attention, your awe, your reverence.
- [Isaiah 6](#) is NOT the vision of a casual God - It's a vision of the true King who is in control of everything - the One who has called us to obey Him and trust Him.
- He's the King we gather to worship every Sunday.
- **We need the weekly reminder of who is in control.** Why? Because you want control. You want to call the shots because you think you know what's best for your life and for the lives of others. You want to control your future, your money, your schedule, your spouse, your kids.
- But, the ongoing evidence of your life is that you continually get it wrong. You need to surrender control to the ONE who reigns and rules over all things - the One who desires good for those who love Him .

- **We need the weekly reminder of just how Holy God is.** The more we see God as high and lifted up, reigning and ruling over this universe, the more we will acknowledge His control over all things.
- You will never surrender control until you see that you were never in control to begin with.
- Beware of treating God casually. He's NOT the big man upstairs. He's not a grandfather type figure who's kind but out of touch with reality. He's not your "higher power" - a vague way of describing God. He's NOT the One who merely "gets you."

Expect to be confronted and cleansed by God.

- Notice how Isaiah does NOT respond: "God, where have you been? Don't you know the trouble we're in?" Nor, "About time you showed up. I thought you forgot about us." Not even, "Wow! This is awesome!"
- Instead, "Woe..." A word we don't use much. A word of grief and despair. "I am ruined..." Or... "This is not going to go well for me." "Because I have seen the King."
- As soon as Isaiah sees God for who He is, Isaiah sees himself for who Isaiah is... A wretched sinner...
- Isaiah seems to be a good man. Comes from a good family. He's religious. But, in this moment, Isaiah sees he's not as good as he thinks he is.
- Isaiah is convicted - he confesses his sin: "I am a man of unclean lips." Isaiah will use His lips as a prophetic instrument of God's Word, but he's immediately reminded that the very thing that God will use is tainted by sin. And, he confesses the sins of his people. "We're all in the same boat. We use our words sinfully."
- God has every right to condemn Isaiah, but instead, God extends grace.

- Coal burning on the altar - where a sacrifice had been made - the burning coal had burned a sacrifice that had been made for the atonement of sins. Seraphim takes the burning coal and touches Isaiah's lips; 'Your iniquity is removed. Your sin is atoned for.'
- [Isaiah 6](#) doesn't record Isaiah's response to the healing touch of the hot coal, but the relief of grace!
- This is what God does - the King of kings who you're fighting for control of your life forgives those who confess their sins to Him.
- He has made a way to forgive through a sacrifice - the cross of Jesus Christ. The OT sacrificial system points to the cross where Jesus died in your place as your substitute so your sins could be atoned. [Romans 10:9](#): "Whoever confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord will be saved."
- **You need the regular reminder of God's grace.** Simple question: what right do you have to be in the presence of God? Answer: None. You are only invited into the presence of God because of grace.
- **You need to regularly be brought under the conviction of sin.** Saved from the penalty of sin, yet we still struggle with sin. If you're a follower of Jesus, no condemnation. But, you know that sin hinders your fellowship with God. You need to feel the weight of your sin so you might repent and restore fellowship with the God who saved you.
- Corporate worship where God is speaking to us through His Word is the place to allow God to convict you so you might confess. What specific sins are hindering your fellowship with God?
- **You need to be regularly reminded that God doesn't want you to stay as you are.** Corporate worship is the reminder that God is at work to change you and mold you into the image of His Son. We don't gather just to here a Bible lecture. You can get that on YouTube from preachers far better than me. You need to be in the fellowship of believers who are

encouraging each other in their walk with the Lord as we are under the Word together.

Expect to be sent by God.

- vs. 8 - A simple question: “Who will I send?” A simple response: “Here I am. Send me.” What else would Isaiah say?
- vs. 9-13 - Going to a people who would not listen. It would be a frustrating ministry. Isaiah would see little fruit, but he would be doing exactly what God desired for him.
- Notice - Isaiah doesn’t say to God, “I need some time... Can you give me a week to pray about it?” Nor, “I don’t now if I’m cut out for this. I need some more information. I need some more education.”
- Instead, “Here I am...”
- **When you regularly encounter God you become a willing volunteer.** Why wouldn’t you be a willing volunteer when you’ve experienced the greatness of God and experienced the magnitude of His grace? What excuse are you going to give Him?
- **When you encounter God you live ready to go.** You know that at any moment God could give you your next assignment, whether it’s to share the Gospel with a coworker or uproot your family and move across the world. He’s the King. Whatever He asks, you do. You live ready knowing that the King is all about extended His Kingdom and using His people to make the Gospel known.
- Ultimately, we encounter God at the cross of Jesus Christ - where we see the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Where we see the King die in our place to pay the penalty of our sins only to rise from the dead three days later to be given the name that is above every name - And one day - every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is

Lord. Have you encountered Christ by repenting of your sins and turning to Him by faith? Today, turn to Him.

- Each Sunday, we gather to worship and encounter the One who died and rose again for us.
- As you meet with us each week, some helpful reminders:
 - **Come prepared.** Get up early. Pray. Pray for the service. Pray for your own heart and the hearts of others.
 - **Come expectantly.** NOT just to see friends but to meet with God. Ask God to convict you and challenge you. Ask God to reveal Himself to you in the service.
 - **Come regularly.** Because you need the regular reminder of who's on the throne. Corporate worship helps you to remember who's in control.
 - **Fully participate.** Remove all distractions and don't be a distraction.