

Saying Yes to the Real You

August 30, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

Our subject: Isaiah

What we need to learn from Isaiah this morning is to understand his concept of what God is like and how it impacts our view of ourselves.

Lesson from the life of King Uzziah

II Chronicles 26:16-21a (NLT) But when he [King Uzziah] had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the Lord his God by entering the sanctuary of the Lord's Temple and personally burning incense on the altar. Azariah the high priest went in after him with eighty other priests of the Lord, all brave men. They confronted King Uzziah and said, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord. That is the work of the priests alone, the sons of Aaron who are set apart for this work. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have sinned. The Lord God will not honor you for this!" Uzziah was furious and refused to set down the incense burner he was holding. But as he was standing there with the priests before the incense altar in the Lord's Temple, leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead. When Azariah and the other priests saw the leprosy, they rushed him out. And the king himself was eager to get out because the Lord had struck him. So King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in isolation, excluded from the Temple of the Lord...

This illustrates that the people had fallen into a kind of carelessness with God that is often a sign of decadence.

ISAIAH'S VIEW OF GOD

1. GOD IS HOLY

Isaiah 6:1-4 (NLT) In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Hovering around him were mighty seraphim, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew. In a great chorus they sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" The glorious singing shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke.

We tend to equate being holy with something moral or ethical; however, it originally meant 'to be separate' and referred to the uniqueness of a person.

To call God holy meant that He was utterly different from anything else.

This means we can expect that God's dealings with us will be unique.

2. GOD HAS A VASTNESS ABOUT HIM

Isaiah learned that God is bigger than people had imagined Him, but also closer.

Isaiah 8:11-13 (NLT) The Lord has said to me in the strongest terms: "Do not think like everyone else does. Do not be afraid that some plan conceived behind closed doors will be the end of you. Do not fear anything except the Lord Almighty. He alone is the Holy One. If you fear him, you need fear nothing else."

Isaiah 12:1,2 (NLT) In that day you will sing: "Praise the Lord! He was angry with me, but now he comforts me. See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

Our tendency is to embrace only one side of this polarity or the other—either to make God so high and vast that He is remote and aloof, or to bring Him so close that He becomes a cozy friend and not the Lord of all the universe.

3. IT IS THROUGH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SUCH A GOD THAT WE FIND FULFILLMENT.

Isaiah willingly volunteered to be a part of what God was doing in the world.

Isaiah 6:8 (NLT) Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go for us?"

Obedience to God is basically a way of self-fulfillment and a cure for self-hatred.

CONCLUSION:

A prayer: "I want to obey. In Your will is my volunteer. I volunteer to become that good thing you made me to be.