

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible
Reading ■ Giving Time, Talents & Resources
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In &
Beyond the Church

Day 1: Isaiah 6:1

May 3, 2020

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

When God created the universe all things were created to fit together and to have a purpose. We as humans seem to have the ability to ignore our purpose and simply live as users, not producers. In addition to having a purpose we also were created to live with God. God calls us to a career, a job, or simply to be producers and life givers during our time on earth. That call might not be to a type of job that is considered “professional” and we might do two or three different types of jobs in our life. But unless there is a call and a commitment to produce instead of just consume, our life will be marked by more times of sadness than joy. Isaiah is receiving his call to ministry and as he comes to listen to God he notices that God has filled the whole building so that nothing can distract Isaiah from hearing God’s voice.

Question: If God created all things to fit together why does it seem that things go wrong?

Challenge: Pick the worst person you can think of and try to say what that person’s purpose for being was.

Scripture: Isaiah 1

Day 2: Isaiah 6:2-3

Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

Just as the building is filled with God’s presence so too is the whole world. God calls us to be in ministry to the whole world. We may never leave our community but we need to know that God is not local but global. How we fulfill our call affects not just our community but the world. Like many of the persons who God called for a specific task in the Old Testament that did not see the end of their work (Hebrews 11:39-40) so too, we may never see what our work has done.

Question: What is a Seraph?

Challenge: Where else in the Bible is the phrase “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” used?

Scripture: Isaiah 2

Day 3: Isaiah 6:4-5

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

When God calls us for a task we first tell God that we are unworthy. We believe we are unworthy because of our sin. We often believe that God chooses only those who are already saintly to do His work. Isaiah believed that he was not a good enough speaker to deliver God’s word. The other thing we do is to say why bother giving people God’s word because they will not listen anyway. God tells us not to worry about how the message (whether in word or deed) will be received - it is our job to give the message. We may be laughed at when we tell people to have hope and especially when we say why we have hope. We are not to worry about how we might look or how our message is received - we are just to give the good news.

Question: What does “unclean lips” mean? Hint: it is not swearing.

Challenge: What do you think Isaiah saw when he “saw the Lord of hosts”?

Scripture: Isaiah 11

Day 4: Isaiah 6:6

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

Fire was used to refine and purify. Fire is dangerous to use because it has to be watched and controlled. It was used because it was the only element that could do the work of refining and making something pure. Fire would get out the impurities so that one was left with the element in its pure form. If fire was not used carefully it just burned and destroyed. In our time the fire of words can also purify and refine but if they are not used carefully they will just burn and destroy.

Question: What does the phrase “use fire to fight fire” mean?

Challenge: Look at the newspaper this week and see how words are used to build a fire just to destroy.

Scripture: Isaiah 25

Day 5: Isaiah 6:7

The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out

What Isaiah needed in order to carry out what God had in mind for him was to have not only his sin forgiven, but “blotted out.” The sin had to be removed from Isaiah’s spirit so that it would not drag him down. He could recall his sin but that recalling would not discourage him. When we are forgiven and sin again we may think that we are still controlled by that sin. Blotting out means that the sin may occur again but we are not controlled by it - we can become forgiven and go on with our task. The forces of evil will try to convince us that we are still unworthy to do God’s work. But God has declared us worthy in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

Question: How would you define guilt?

Challenge: Do a little research on Isaiah and see what ministry God was calling him to perform.

Scripture: Isaiah 35

Day 6: Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

Now Isaiah can respond to God’s call. He has the block removed and he can respond freely without guilt or being forced. When we hear God calling us and we hesitate it is a sign that we need to ask God to take away the block. The block may be fear, disbelief, stubbornness or just an inability to listen. God will send us to the world to fulfill our purpose and not ask us to do something that will drain us of life but rather we will find life by fulfilling our purpose and reason for being. We will be producers and not simple users.

Question: Is it bad to force someone to do something they do not want to do?

Challenge: What block do you have that keeps you from responding to God’s call?

Scripture: Isaiah 40