

Effective Servant

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In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on the throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and threshold shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and live among a nation of people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

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!”

He said, “Go and tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing, but never understand; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’”

Isaiah 6:1-9

Isaiah’s vision of the Lord and his subsequent commission to service very clearly reveals to us four aspects of the nature of God which we need to keep in mind in order to be able to serve Him effectively.

- He is worshipped (v.3)

The seraphs worshipped Him. The God we serve, as declared by the seraphs is glorious. He is the LORD Almighty who is worth our praise and highest honour.

- He is holy (vv. 2&3)

God is holy that the seraphs had to cover their faces and feet with their wings. This nature of His demands that we live a holy and righteous life.

- He is powerful (vv.3&4)

The whole scenario of the shaking of the doorposts and threshold and the smoke-filled temple portrays the power of God. This power is made available to you by His Holy Spirit.

- He is King (v.5)

Isaiah, having seen God, declared that he has “...seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” God is worthy of our worship.

We need to have the right concept of God before we can serve Him effectively.

Isaiah saw God in His holiness, power and majesty. His subsequent response to this divine encounter shows us five steps that lead to effective service unto Him:

1. Conviction

After having seen the Lord in His holiness, Isaiah was convicted of his sinfulness (v5).

In like manner, Job responded when he saw the Lord: “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” John in Revelation 1:17, said: “When I saw

him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.’” Rev. 1:17.

We should not only be convicted of our sins but also of the things that we do. We should be men and women of conviction. Isaiah not only knew what it was to be convicted but also how to live up to his convictions.

2. Confession

Conviction led Isaiah to confess his condition: “I am ruined!” (v5). Sin ruins you, your home, relationships, marriage and so on. Isaiah saw himself ruined because he was a sinner in God’s sight. To be “ruined” means “to be cut off”. Sin cuts you off. Sin separates you from God who is the source of life and hope.

Isaiah did not stop here. He did not allow sin to deter him from progressing. He confessed it to God.

Proverbs 28:13 says, “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

3. Cleansing (v.6)

Cleansing comes after conviction and confession. One of the seraphs flew to Isaiah and touched his lips with a live coal as a sign of cleansing. A New Testament truth is typified here. The seraph is a typology of the Holy Spirit who convicts us of our sin and the coal typifies Jesus’ blood, that cleanses us from all sins (1 John 1:9).

The Bible says, “Without blood there is no remission of sins”. The Holy Spirit takes the finished work of Christ and applies it to our hearts. He is still doing this. Let the Holy Spirit banish all your negative thoughts and cleanse you so that you can serve Him wholeheartedly. God will only use clean vessels. God clearly brings forth this fact in Isaiah 52:11: “Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the Lord.” (Read also II Cor. 7:1)

4. Challenge (v.8)

After Isaiah was cleansed, he heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” The Lord laid the challenge before Isaiah. Likewise, God speaks when you are ready for service unto Him. His challenge is before you today.

5. Consecration (v.8)

Isaiah acted in obedience to the challenge and said: “Here am I. Send me!” There was not only consecration on the part of Isaiah but also action. This led to his commission for service in verse 9 – He said, “Go and tell this people...”

Will you let the Holy Spirit today help you respond like Isaiah? Let us work the works of Him who has sent us.