

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 22

Isaiah 6

INTRODUCTION: In this chapter, Isaiah has his ministry transformed as he comes face to face with God in a marvelous vision. Isaiah is the chief of all the prophets. To him was given more clearly a view of the future than to any other prophet. He mentions the virgin birth in chapter 7, the coming of Christ to the earth in chapter 9, and the cross in chapter 53. He is the most important of all of the prophets; consequently, before his ministry begins, God gives him an unusual calling through a vision in the sixth chapter. Let us notice this vision.

- I. THE VISION CAME IN THE YEAR THAT KING UZZIAH DIED. Notice Isaiah 6:1. Isaiah was very close to the king. The king was his ideal. The untimely death of the king came as a shock to Isaiah. No doubt this experience led him to see the Lord. In our trials, disappointments and heartaches, we should see the Lord. Every event of life that brings us unhappiness should cause us to search ourselves and gain spiritual growth therefrom.
- II. THE FIRST PREPARATION FOR HIS MINISTRY WAS TO SEE THE LORD. This is the most important thing in anybody's service for Christ. There needs to be a revival of real, intimate, personal fellowship between the Christian and his Saviour. The Lord is simply saying, "Isaiah, before you do anything big for Me, you must first see Me." This was also true with the Apostle Paul, who had his vision of the Lord before launching into his life's work. (Teacher, stress to the pupils the importance of walking with God.)
- III. THE VISION IS WRAPPED AROUND THREE WORDS: "WOE," "LO," AND "GO." The word "woe" is in verse 5; "lo" is in verse 7; and "go" is in verse 8. Let us notice these three words.
  1. "Woe." Notice verse 5, "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." When Isaiah saw the Lord, he said, "Woe is me!" not "Woe is my neighbor," not "Woe is somebody else," but "Woe is me!" When he compared himself with the Lord, he realized his own inadequacy. When we walk with men, we exalt ourselves. When we walk with God, we exalt Him and humble ourselves. When we compare ourselves with men, we become proud. When we compare ourselves with God, we become humble. When we see how far we have come, we become proud. When we see how far we have to go, we become humble. This is one of the main reasons why we, as God's people, should walk with God. When we walk with Him, we see the faults of others less, and we see our own faults more. Notice especially the words, "and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."
  2. "Lo." Notice verses 6 and 7, "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." The altar mentioned in verse 6 is the brazen altar where the lamb was slain on coals of fire. One of the coals was taken and placed upon the lips of Isaiah. It cleansed him. Notice first, it cleansed his lips. (Teacher, discuss with the pupils the different sins we commit with our lips, sins such as cursing, telling dirty jokes, lying, cussing, complaining, criticizing, etc. Spend a while on each of these. You might even discuss the singing of wrong music, etc.)

Then Isaiah was cleansed, and his iniquity was taken away. No one can do anything for God until he is cleansed. Notice the progression here. Isaiah saw the Lord; he then saw his own weakness; he then was cleansed. God will not use dirty vessels. (Teacher, you could bring a dirty glass and a beverage to class. Ask a pupil if he would like to have a beverage to drink. Give the pupils the dirty glass and begin to pour the beverage into the glass. Of course, the pupil will not want to drink from a glass that is obviously dirty. Neither does God want to pour His living water through vessels that are unclean!)
  3. "Go." Notice verse 8, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." God wants us to go and do His will, serve Him, and tell others of Him.

We have seen the “woe”—a debasing of ourselves and exalting of Christ; the “lo”—a cleansing from our sins; and now we are ready to “go.” Again notice the progression. We see the Lord, we humble ourselves, we are cleansed of our sin, and now we are ready to go. (Teacher, talk with the class about the importance of soul winning and the importance of spreading to others our faith in Christ.)

IV. THE LORD TELLS ISAIAH THE PEOPLE TO WHOM HE IS TO GO. Read Isaiah 6:9-12.

1. There are people who do not understand. See Isaiah 6:9b.
2. There are people who do not perceive. See Isaiah 6:9c.
3. There are people with spiritual sickness. Read Isaiah 6:10. Notice the words, “and be healed.”
4. There are people headed for destruction. Notice Isaiah 6:11.
5. There are people who have forsaken the Lord. See Isaiah 6:12.

CONCLUSION: God needs people. He needs people to serve Him and to do His work. If we become such people, we must see the Lord, we must realize our own weakness, we must be cleansed of our sins, and we must go to do His work. A good outline for the lesson would be the “woe of conviction” in verse 5, the “lo of cleansing” in verse 7, and the “go of commission” in verse 8.