

## Series: Great Questions – week 8

CDOBC – beginning on 10/18/09

Title: “Who will Say Yes To God?”

*Isaiah 6 ~ December 6, 2009*

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**OBJECTIVE:** To help us understand that God calls every believer to serve Him...that each believer has a purpose for which God has saved them.

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### Announcements

- Welcome / guests – communication cards
- Fundamentals of the Faith Class – informational meeting after 2<sup>nd</sup> service – in Rm. #6 – Youth Room?
- Christmas Services – Door hanger packets – Cantata, Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve Services
- Dessert & Carol Night – 6 p.m. – bring a dessert to share
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### Opening Prayer

I have found that my eagerness to say ‘yes’ to an appeal for help depends on who is asking for help. If I hear my wife’s voice full of panic, calling for help, I rush to see what she needs. If I hear a crash and see one of my kids on the ground in pain, calling for help, I’m eager to see what I can do. If I have just sat down in a chair – and then my dog begins to scratch at the back door and cry to go outside, I’m less eager to help. When the phone rings and a telemarketer asks for help, I’m less eager to say ‘yes’.

One of the great questions in the Bible is spoken by God in Isaiah 6:8 where He asks, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

It’s a question that He still asks today – a question that falls on the ears of every believer – a question that has only one right answer – the answer Isaiah gave – “Here am I. Send me!”

Turn to Isaiah 6

**God calms our fears in a crisis.** vs. 1-4

He does not calm our fears by taking away the crisis, but by reminding us of who He is!

It's so easy for us to put our trust in human strongholds. When the government is protecting us...when our job is secure...when our health is stable...when our marriage is strong and steady...when our kids are obedient...when our friendships are helpful...when our home is safe. At times like this, it's easy to live life. When things are on the upswing, any problems that appear are minor in scope and we can often deal with them from an optimistic perspective. King Uzziah reigned over Judah for fifty two years! King Uzziah was a good king, and God blessed him and the nation of Judah under his rule.

But, in the “...year that King Uzziah died”, one can imagine the questions and uncertainty that invaded the minds of many in Judah. The king's death brought a crisis to the nation. Would his son succeed him on the throne? How would his son rule now that his father was dead? Would his son, Jotham, do what is right in God's eyes?

King Uzziah was a good king – a godly king. He had some failures, but Scripture describes his kingship in a good light. However, even though the civic life of Judah was running smoothly, the spiritual health of the nation was poor. The “High Places” were still in existence, and the people's hearts were still selfish and intent on doing what they wanted – not what God commanded. **The true crisis at hand was not the death of King Uzziah, but the downward spiritual spiral the nation was embracing.**

It's often at times of great uncertainty that we are more open to hear the Word of the Lord. We are more eager and desperate for His direction, depending less on our own wisdom which always seems to reach a dead end at some point.

**Isaiah sees:**

**The true King on the throne** – in light of the uncertainty of the king of Judah, God calms any fears that Isaiah might have had and reminds him that He is still on the throne – He is still reigning – He is still the ultimate King over the nation.

**The train of God’s robe** – The royal robe of a king was a majestic piece of clothing. It was made of the finest, most luxurious fabric available. The length and hem of the robe symbolized the majesty, wealth, and power of the king.

Uzziah was blessed by God through wealth and land.

Through his reign Uzziah built towers and fortified the walls of Jerusalem (2 Chron. 26:9-10). He was blessed in many ways. But no human king ever had a robe whose train would fill an entire building! God’s majesty and royalty was greater than all earthly kings combined!

**Uzziah was a good king** – but God is “Holy, Holy, Holy”.

There may have been doubts about how Uzziah’s son would reign, but there could be no doubt about God’s goodness and holiness.

**Uzziah was a powerful king** – God blessed him in many battles over his 52 years – and the border of Judah expanded under his leadership. But the mere praise of God shook the doorposts and thresholds!

Are you at a point of great uncertainty in your own life? Have you – like millions of Americans – been profoundly affected by the issues of our day and by the recession that has affected so many? After a time of prosperity, has crisis entered your life and you find yourself longing for God’s direction and wisdom? Look to God and take comfort in His uninterrupted rule, His royal majesty, His holiness, and His power.

**Isaiah’s vision of God exposes his sin.** vs. 5

Isaiah sees God “seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.” (vs. 1). He not only sees the Almighty, but he is witness to a glorious worship event where the angels / seraphs are singing praise to God – extolling and emphasizing His holiness. As one would expect, Isaiah is awestruck by what he sees and what he hears.

Isn't it interesting what is not a part of this worship service? God does not address Isaiah's thoughts and feelings about King Uzziah's death...God does not say anything about the next king who succeeded Uzziah...God does not assure Isaiah that everything would be OK in light of this national crisis in the nation's leadership.

God's holiness, glory, and majesty are emphasized – which makes Isaiah's lack of holiness obvious. Isaiah's lack of holiness is not in compared to his fellow man – but with God. Even the sinless seraphs (angels) cover themselves due to the greater holiness of God!

We too often compare ourselves to each other – we make ourselves feel OK if we look good compared to another person – but we are using a crooked ruler – a broken level – a cockeyed plumb-line!

Our standard and goal for holiness is Christ. He is our example – He is our pattern. Isaiah saw the holiness, glory, and majesty of God, and as he saw the glory of God he realized how unholy he was – and how unholy the nation of Judah was – even though God had been blessing them and Uzziah was a king who “...did what was right in the eyes of the LORD...” (2 Chron. 26:4).

Who are you comparing yourself to? Do you see yourself in comparison to other people – or do you see yourself in light of God's holiness?

## **God gives grace to Isaiah.** vs. 6-7

Isaiah cries out due to his sin – and one of the seraphs jumps into action, and by taking a hot coal off the altar, he sears Isaiah’s lips, cleansing and purifying them.

His sin was atoned for – all he did was confess – His heart was filled with repentance – and God, through the actions of the seraph, gave Isaiah grace in light of his sin. Isaiah simply confessed his sin – and God did the work of forgiveness – the atoning work to take away his sin.

What are your thoughts – about yourself – when you hear about and think about the holiness of God? When you hear about God’s commands, His justice, His righteousness? When you hear about the sinfulness of the human race? Do you respond by looking at other people and console yourself that you’re not the worst person around? That you are in fact, one of the better persons in the room? Do you confess your sin and seek the grace of God in Christ Jesus? Do you put your faith in your own goodness – or – like Isaiah – do you realize your sin in light of our Holy God?

## **God wants His message known.** vs. 8a

It’s helpful to look at the order of events in this vision. The national crisis has begun, Isaiah sees the Lord and hears of God’s holiness, Isaiah’s sin is exposed due to his exposure to God’s holiness, and God is gracious toward Isaiah’s sin and cleanses him. Then, God calls him to service. In fact, it’s a general appeal, but since Isaiah is the only one there, I’m sure it didn’t feel very ‘public’ in its appeal. God didn’t require that Isaiah meet some specific academic criteria or some other experiential criteria. He simply wanted to send someone who was willing – someone who would ‘go’ on the

Lord's behalf! The only criteria for serving God is that you have confessed your sins to God and you have received God's atonement / forgiveness of your sins in Jesus.

**Isaiah was willing to serve.** vs. 8b

Who was Isaiah? What kind of person was he? Well, tradition says that Isaiah was born into the royal lineage of Judah – or that he was born into the 'higher' levels of society – the privileged of Judah who had access to the king. That may be true, but that is tradition, not the testimony of Scripture. We really don't know that much about Isaiah's life before God called Him to be His prophet. We know that he was the son of Amoz (1:1), but we really don't know anything about Amoz.

What we do know about Isaiah is what he says about himself in verse 5 of our passage today. He confesses his sin – specifically his sin in the area of speech. His lips were unclean – he lives among people with unclean lips – and he realizes he is in trouble because he has seen the Holy, Almighty God! Since he confesses to unclean lips / speech, we know that his heart is also unclean. Jesus taught that "But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean." **Matt. 15:18.**

In other words, it doesn't seem like Isaiah was much different than most of us. He was probably someone who tried to follow God, someone who loved the Lord, but someone who fell short of God's perfect holiness. He was a sinner!

Yet, he was willing to say 'yes' to God and to serve God. It's also interesting that Isaiah said 'yes' before he knew the details of his mission! Only after saying 'yes', did God tell him to "Go and tell this people..." The most important part of saying 'yes' to God is not what He wants you to do – but

realizing who you are saying ‘yes’ to! Isaiah’s eagerness in saying ‘yes’ to God was not in his confidence in the mission – but his confidence in God!

**Isaiah’s ministry was one of non-response.** vs. 9-13

Our motivation for ministry – our motive in serving God is not a guaranteed result. Sometimes we serve only if we know the outcome of our service – and this is wrong.

**Illus.** Esther’s response to the situation in her life...4:11-14  
Esther did not know if God would sustain her upon approaching the king. She had to act in faith, and she had to act knowing what needed to be done. God wants us to have faith in Him – not a certainty of how your ministry efforts will be turn out.

## **Application**

Bring your fears to the throne of God.

Isaiah’s vision of God as supreme and everlasting King and Ruler calmed any fears of the moment. Remind yourself that no matter what difficulty you are facing in life that God is sufficient and God is still sovereign.

Accept the grace and atoning work of Christ for your sin.

Isaiah’s sin was exposed by the mere presence of God – and God through the seraphs took action to take Isaiah’s sin away. In John 12:41, the Apostle John says that Isaiah saw Jesus’ glory. Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection atone for your sins – and give you the promise of new life. Now is the time to accept His grace for your sins.

God has saved you for salvation and service.

**Ephesians 2:10** ‘For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.’

Just like God gave His grace to Isaiah and atoned for His sin, He has given Jesus to atone for our sin. But His motive for saving us – his motive for forgiving and cleansing us from our sin is not only to give us eternal life in Heaven, but that we would be able to give Him our life – that we would say *‘Yes, here am I, send me.’*

Close in prayer / salvation prayer –

Transition to communion