

Day 1
October 2



Pray | For God to show you how to be set apart today for him.

WHAT DO I KNOW OF HOLY?

Isaiah's vision from God comes at a time of uncertainty for the Israelites. God gives a vision of the reality in the spiritual realm we cannot as easily see. In this reality, God is still on his throne, shaking the cornerstones of the earth with his presence. The heavenly beings are humbled as they proclaim his glory, beauty, and might which are pervasive yet piercing.

There is a song that asks, "Are you fire? Are you fury? Are you sacred? Are you beautiful?"¹ Yes. God is all that and more. He is everything we can understand and everything we cannot. He is separate from us and closest to us. God is a glorious conundrum that we cannot grasp, and he wants us to be like him, holy and set apart for him. But how well do we really understand his holiness, and how we can attain it?



Read | Isaiah 6:1-4



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Isaiah 6:3 says the whole earth is full of God's glory. When have you witnessed the glory, power, majesty, beauty and transcendence of God?

What do you know of God's holiness? Take some time to make a list of how his holiness impacts your life and how you can increase the impact this has on your life.

Consider taking some time to listen to and meditate on the lyrics of the song "What Do I Know of Holy" by Addison Road. How can you relate with the songwriter?

If you have a hard time answering these questions or if God's distinct beauty seems less than impactful in your life, be sure to come back for Day 2.

¹ Addison Road, "What Do I Know of Holy?" from *Addison Road*, INO Records, March 18, 2008, Accessed September 1, 2017. https://youtu.be/ZsJ3_PmsYr0.

Day 2
October 3



Pray | For God to pierce the fog of your heart.

DULLED SENSES

In the middle of the night when the world around you is dark and uncertain, you may reach for a lamp that brings light and relief. Initially its light is blinding, and you may blink or turn away. And then, as the sun comes up, its light dwarfs that of the lamp which had seemed so bright and useful.

Pastor Henry showed us in Ecclesiastes that there are forces in the world constantly trying to capture our hearts and convince us that this is all there is—that their “lamp” is brighter than the “sun.” We are becoming immune to awe and wonder as we manufacture the same on a daily basis. Our culture has us wrapped up in busyness and the constant barraging of our senses, leaving us little to no time to sit with our thoughts and listen to God, dulling our spiritual senses. We ignore our spirit’s conviction, and we become desensitized to the voice of God, all the while wondering why it is so difficult to hear him.



Read | Isaiah 6:1-5; Matthew 13:14-15



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Isaiah saw God and was struck by his majesty. Yesterday we looked at how God’s majesty is transforming our lives. The passage in Matthew suggests that some may see God’s majesty but not be able to perceive its power, or they might hear his voice but not be able to understand because their hearts have grown calloused and dull. How well do you feel you understand and perceive the things of God’s Holy Spirit?

Walking with God means constantly denying those forces that are vying for your heart. Do you feel the constant struggle? If you do not, take some time to consider why that is or what you may have allowed to capture your heart. Pray that God would change your heart and sharpen your spiritual acuity like Isaiah, rather than having it dulled like the people in Matthew.

When our hearts grow dull to God, we lose sensitivity to his commands that have become socially acceptable, or even expected, to disregard. Of course grievous crimes affect most of us universally, but what about some of the less obvious sins like greed or gluttony? Confess to him if you have followed culture in these areas rather than God’s plan.

Day 3
October 4



Pray | For a new standard of measurement.

ARE YOU “GOOD ENOUGH”?

Isaiah caught a glimpse of God himself, which changed him profoundly. Seeing himself next to the almighty God, Isaiah suddenly realized his own atrocities.

Many of us in our culture have isolated ourselves and take offense to accountability and confrontation, using the clichés “Follow your heart” and “Judge not” when they conveniently allow us to continue in our sins. With every man determining truth for himself, we are not forced to do the uncomfortable work of comparing ourselves to God’s truth. We have created new standards for ourselves, based solely on those we deem easy enough to meet—the standards that would make us feel better about ourselves. But in doing so, we unknowingly shortchange ourselves! God wants to be our standard for living and for blessings. Lofty standards mean lofty blessings and a closer walk with the King!



Read | Isaiah 6:1-5; Matthew 15:10-20



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Consider the kind of person you perceive yourself to be. Maybe “good enough,” “better than the next guy” or “not that bad” are words you would use. What is the standard you are comparing yourself to? What standard would God have you be held to?

Isaiah’s encounter with God uncovered his shortcomings and made him admit to his faults. It inspired him to confess, and it changed him from the inside out. God wants us to change because we want to, not because he says we should. How are you changed by encounters with God?

No matter what laundry list of religious “rules” we keep or how “good” of a person we are, our character can still be lacking, as Matthew points out. What is the difference between keeping a list of moral rules and being conformed to the character of Christ?

Day 4
October 5



Pray | That you could see how valuable God's quick forgiveness is.

GOD IS QUICK TO FORGIVE

Pastor Henry once told us God, in his mercy, typically does not allow us to see the effects of our sins because it is too overwhelming. When Isaiah was given a glimpse into God's goodness and his subsequent filth, he was so overcome that he became nearly speechless. He uttered a very short confession, verbalizing what he saw: simply a heart dirty next to the goodness of God.

With this short confession, immediately God forgave Isaiah! He doesn't wait for a long confession; he simply pours out grace. God may open our eyes to see our filth, but he doesn't let us wallow in it. He doesn't leave us in our pain and realization. He is quick to forgive us and bring our gaze back to him. As we look at him, we realize that he wants us to participate in his glory. And then we want to share this news with others, which is exactly what God expects of us. He doesn't simply bless us and forgive us so that we can absorb his gifts; he wants us to pay it forward.

Read | Isaiah 6:5-8

Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

God is quick to forgive us. First John 1:9 also says that he "is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." How quickly and thoroughly do you believe God forgives your sins? Why?

How quick have you been to forgive others, regardless of the size of their indiscretion?

One aspect of forgiveness that is often neglected is our own forgiveness of ourselves. Are you quick to forgive yourself because you don't feel your sins are that bad? Do you continue punishing yourself so that perhaps God won't? Take some time to consider how well you forgive yourself, and ask God to help you forgive yourself as he does.

Day 5
October 6



Pray | For the courage to find your stench.

WHAT STINKS?

As we've seen this week, when we see God's goodness, we realize our own depravity, and God quickly forgives us. A few weeks back, we looked at King David's grievous sins and his subsequent confession. When David realized his sins, he simply repented, relying on God's grace to forgive him. Similarly, Isaiah is floored by his uncleanness. His confession is short and powerful, and he doesn't rely on his status as prophet or try to bargain with God. He is willing to accept any of the consequences he deserves. God is so quick to forgive and redeem his beloved Isaiah. God meets Isaiah. In order to help him fully grasp that he has been forgiven, God uses imagery that any Israelite would understand.

See, when we simply recognize that we have sinful hearts, we uncover our wounds and stains, however ugly they may be, so that God can put his hands on us to heal us.



Read | Psalm 51:1-2; Isaiah 6:5-8



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Have you ever experienced the smell of something rotting in your home, vehicle or garage? Perhaps it was a mouse caught in a trap, the sweaty hockey socks left in the bag all summer or the remnants of your kids' forgotten lunch box. What will truly get the smell out: masking it or getting on your hands and knees, getting dirty, finding the source in all its ugliness and getting rid of it? Do you need to spend some time on your hands and knees with your heavenly Father, seeking out and ridding yourself of the source of a stench in your life? If you have never allowed God to really see your heart, take time today to start to crack the door and let him in.

The next step is to proclaim as Isaiah did, "Here I am! Send me!" Where is God sending you?

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