Here am I

(Isaiah 6:1-8)

Today we turn to the Old Testament to learn a little more about our relationship with the Lord. Specifically Isaiah 6:1-8. Now as you know, I go on a short term mission every summer and verse 8 was one that really changed my heart. It was a verse that dug in deep in my heart and radically changed me. Of course when most people think of mission they refer to the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20. The Great Commission is so powerful, but that wasn’t the verse that did it for me. It was Isaiah 6:8, where it says: “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.” These words changed my life and how I understood what I was supposed to do.

1. Isaiah’s confrontation, comprehension, and call
   1. Confrontation
      1. In verses 1 – 5, 750 years before the incarnation of Christ, Isaiah has a compelling vision. He saw the glory and the holiness of the Lord.
      2. Isaiah was confronted by the truth of the God most high and the truth about himself and his culture in clear contrast to God’s transcendent holiness and purity.in verse 5.
   2. Comprehension
      1. The vision of God’s glory and holiness gave Isaiah insight into God’s perspective.
      2. For us to understand things, many times we have to get out of our own way of looking at things and think about it from the perspective of how God sees it.
      3. It gave him a fresh understanding of humanity’s separation from God and compelled Isaiah to commitment
         1. He was cleansed (v 7) and his mouth was touched for it was the part to be used by a prophet.
   3. Call
      1. In verse 8 we see Isaiah being called and commissioned.
      2. I want you to see a few things in verse 8.
         1. God’s call to Isaiah was unique and the Lord spoke as one seeking out a volunteer. He didn’t command Isaiah’s response, instead he allowed Isaiah to volunteer. Compare to Jonah. God’s call is personal and unique for every person.
         2. Here am I…we see this earlier with Abraham (Ge. 22:1) and Moses (Ex. 3:4)
      3. When Isaiah saw the glory and holiness of the Lord, he knew that he had to take God’s truth into the world so that all could hear.
      4. As we understand why Isaiah “went” as God’s spokesman, we will have a sharpened understanding of why we are to go.
2. Why we go
   1. We go because of God
      1. Humanism begins with people. It has also been the devil’s goal for humans to focus upon themselves before they focus on God. Isaiah is not the center of the vision…God is.
      2. We go because of God and his compelling glory, purity and love.
   2. We go because of the needs of others.
      1. Since we are of the spirit and mind of Christ we will have a burden for people separated from God and His hope.
      2. We are moved to bring the message of redemption and reconciliation to those living in a fallen world.
   3. We go because we are called and commissioned by our Lord
      1. Every follower is in the position of Isaiah when he received his call and commission.
      2. We are called through our relationship with Christ.
      3. This is part of the package of our salvation!

In conclusion, I share these verses with you and my heart is filled with joy that I can share God’s Word with you. Like the call to worship said, “14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" and Isaiah’s response ….”Here am I, send me!” Through the work of the purifying fire, Isaiah was prepared for service. This happened when he submitted himself to God’s purpose. Let us do likewise and submit ourselves to that fire – the Spirit of God – that will cleanse us and empower us to bring God’s Word to those who do not yet know Him. I challenge you to go from here with the fire of the Spirit burning in your heart and directing your steps as you bring the Good News to Apugujeong, Gangnam, Seoul, Korea and to the ends of the world! Praise be to God!

(Portions of this sermon taken from Sermon for Commissioning Mission Teams: Why We Go by Wallace Henely)