



Living in Hopeful Expectation: Lessons from Isaiah

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Encounter with a Holy God

INTRODUCTION:

READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple. Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. They shouted to each other, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces! All the earth is filled with God's glory!"

4 The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 I said, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!"

6 Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed."

8 Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me."

TABLE STUDY:

1. How are all of Isaiah's senses affected in this passage?
2. What are the two ways in which Isaiah responds to what is happening? Do you find either response unexpected? (Explain)
3. What do we see or hear from God (the Lord) in this passage?

TEACHING NOTES:

TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. Have you ever struggled to remember who God is in a time of pain or struggle? How did you see God meet you there and how did you respond?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 3:16-18. "But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."

What do these verses show us about how we are transformed by God?

3. Where do you see yourself invited into the work of God?

UNISON READING: Isaiah 43:1 [NLT]

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine."