

Isaiah 6 • Upward, Inward, & Outward

1. (v.1-4) *Upward*

- a. Who is on the throne? Jesus.
- b. What does the “train of His robe” represent? His authority.
- c. What do the heavenly beings teach us? Ministry is equal parts of right worship and a right relationship.
- d. What is the evidence of a right ministry? The unity of its ministers.
- e. What is the object of a right ministry? To bring everything into agreement with God’s holiness.
- f. What does the smoke represent? Our prayer.
- g. What was the result of Isaiah’s looking upward? He acknowledged the sovereignty and authority of Christ, and was comforted by the reality that Christ is firmly in control.

2. (v.5-7) *Inward*

- a. What happens when someone has a TRUE encounter with Christ? They simultaneously become acutely aware of Christ’s authority and their own sin.
- b. “Unclean lips” is the tangible evidence of an unclean heart.
- c. What does the altar represent? Christ’s sacrifice to purify us from uncleanness.
- d. How does God convey the power and message of His sacrifice? Through messengers.
- e. What was the result of Isaiah’s looking inward? He had to face the reality of his spiritual condition and his need for a Savior.

3. (v.8-13) *Outward*

- a. What happens to someone that has a genuine, spiritual encounter with Christ? Rather than seek to extend the experience, they’re motivated to go out and serve.
- b. What motivates God’s servants? They know Christ is on the throne. This is called “faith”.
- c. What could Isaiah now see that he couldn’t see before? The needs of others as Christ saw them.
 - 1) First comes recognition of Christ’s sovereignty.
 - 2) Next comes recognition of the personal need for the Savior.
 - 3) Finally comes recognition of others’ need for the Savior.
- d. What is remarkable about all of God’s messengers? They have all been changed by the very message they bear.
- e. The 3 stages of those who reject the message are:
 - 1) They WOULD NOT believe. (Jn. 12:37)
 - 2) They COULD NOT believe. (Jn. 12:39)
 - 3) They SHOULD NOT believe. (Jn. 12:40)

Overall: The example of Isaiah is being transformed from a spectator to a participant.