

Sermon Series: Outsiders

Sermon Title: Dealing With a Difficult Year

Sermon Presenter: Dr. Jake Roudkovski

Sermon Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

Sermon Summary: This study looks at the difficult year Isaiah had in his life and circumstances and application is made to our lives in today's trying times. Three main points are made that should help us realize God is going to help us deal with our circumstances and be a strong witness and testimony to others of the reality of God's love and offer to help us in our time of need. God is still on the throne, God is still Holy and God is still to be served! When outsiders see our commitment to our Holy God and witness His activity in our lives, they will at least be curious and hopefully will be inquisitive as to how we are able to still have peace and joy in the midst of trying times. When they inquire, we should be ready to point them to Jesus!

Full Sermon Notes:

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Isaiah 6:2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 6:4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Isaiah 6:5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Isaiah 6:6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

Isaiah 6:7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Isaiah 6:8 Then 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!"

It has been a difficult year, has it not? In the past 2 weeks, we have been dealing with IDA. How many of you have had tree or home damages? I am grateful that my house has had a minor damage,

and several trees down. So many that I know have lost their homes. One elderly student at the seminary lost his life. He was riding out the storm in an apartment in NO when the generator stopped working in a blistering heat. We have had two difficult weeks and we have had a difficult month. When President Biden pulled out the troops from Afghanistan in a hasty manner, the only remaining superpower surrendered to medieval Taliban. We have left around 100 Americans behind and untold thousands of Afghans who worked with us to their certain death. We know of two people that were

already crucified because they had Bibles in their possession. As a result, on the world stage, no nation wants to trust America to honor their pledge or word. Listen I am not being political here, it is just the facts. It has been a difficult month, but listen it has been a difficult year.

At a time when I thought we put COVID-19 pandemic in a rearview mirror, the Delta Variant has upended the return to normalcy. How many of you have lost friends and people that you knew to Covid? I just recently lost two pastor friends to this dreaded virus. Between IDA, a botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the Delta Variant we have had a difficult year, have we not?

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah has had a difficult year. In the year that King Uzziah died. What year was it? It is 739 BC. King Uzziah was one of the more successful kings of Judah. In many ways, he was the Ronald Reagan of his day. He poured a lot of money in the defense of Jerusalem making it one of the most fortified cities of his era. He led the nation to develop agriculture and commerce to the point that the economy was booming. As a result of his leadership, the people enjoyed great peace and prosperity. But this great king dies, and his death ushers the period of uncertainty, anxiety, and concerns on every corner. It has been a difficult year for Isaiah and it has been a difficult year for us. When we experience a difficult year, remember that God is not silent, He is involved in our lives; He loves you and cares for you. He has given us his Word. And in his Word, we read about Isaiah who has experienced a difficult year, and amid all the chaos and confusion and conflict, the Lord encouraged him. The Lord encouraged Isaiah by reminding him about several facts about God. I believe we need to hear the same reminders today as we face an extremely difficult year.

God is Still on the Throne

Isaiah 6:1

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

First of all, when you face a difficult year, remember that God is still on the throne. Notice the word Lord in this verse. It is in lowercase letters.

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

When it is lowercase letters in the Scripture, it is the Hebrew word Adonai, which literally means the Sovereign one, it is the title of God.

Lord
LORD (YHWH)

This Adonai is sitting on the throne. He is the absolute Ruler of the Universe. He is high and lifted up, He is above all, He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The train of His robe, the hem or fringe of his robe fills the whole temple. He can't be contained by space or time, he

transcends space and time. He is the Sovereign God who is on the throne. You may be wondering where was God when Ida hit our region and caused massive devastation? He was on the throne, he is on the throne and he will be on the throne. You may be asking where was God when hundreds of Americans were left behind in Afghanistan. He was, he is, and he will be on the throne. Where is God when the entire world seems to have been hit in the gut with the Delta Varian? He was, he is, he will be on the throne. All those events did not catch God by surprise,

As Adrian Rogers used to say,

“The Holy Trinity never meets for an emergency session.”

Listen when you face a difficult year, remember that God is still on the throne, furthermore, also remember that God is still Holy.

God is Still Holy

Isaiah 6:2-7

When the prophet Isaiah gets a glimpse of God, the seraphim are praising God. Seraphim is plural by the way. Seraphim means the burning ones, they are the angelic beings leading in the praise of the HOLY God V. 3 “Holy...”

Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The HEBREW word used here is Kodesh which means “separate, set apart, cut above.”

Holy, Holy, Holy...

Kodesh - “separate, set apart, cut above.”

Our most majestic God that is so different from everything and anything that the only way that you can properly describe him is as HOLY. He is different from all of the creation describe in this chapter, different from the world humanity represented by Isaiah,

Creation, angelic world, humanity

different from the angelic world represented by seraphim that the only way to describe Him is as Holy.

I find it fascinating that 7 out of 12 references to the name of God refer to God as Holy

God’s name is qualified by the adjective Holy more than all of the adjectives put together.

In the entire Bible...

God's attribute as Holy is the most frequently mentioned fact about God!

You see...

Holiness is not something that God has, something God does, it is who God is! Holiness is the very essence of God!

Three times the angels proclaim him as Holy. This is the only time in the Scripture that an attribute of God is mentioned three times. In Hebrew poetry, repetition was used for emphasis, when mentioned three times; it was to elevate it to the greatest degree and give it the greatest importance. Nowhere in the Scripture, God is love..... God is just...Merciful... All-knowing, All-powerful, All-Knowing. He is all that but most importantly he is HOLY! God is set aside and separate in many ways from us, the most distinct way is that He is sinless. IN HIS nature there is not an ounce of ability or proclivity to sin, he is sinless. Notice it says Holy is the LORD v 3.

Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

The Lord is all in the uppercase, uppercase it not a mistake, in Hebrew it is four letters, four consonants, the unspeakable four letters,

Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Tetragrammaton, that we typically pronounce Yahweh. If Adonai is the title of God, YHWY is the name of God.

Lord
LORD (YHWH)

When Jewish scribes would copy... uppercase ... they would insert vowels for Adonai as a reminder not even to pronounce Yahweh. (Vines 31) Why did they do it? It was recognition that the Holy God was without sin, that he alone is sinless. Notice how Isaiah responds to the vision of the Holy, Sinless God. Tongs with a live coal purge his sin. What tongs did for Isaiah, the blood of Christ does for you and me. Because Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, rose victoriously, ascended to the Father and is coming again in glory, we can approach the sinless

God and live. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven and set free. Listen, when you think how sinless God is and how sinful you are, the only appropriate response, Thank God for Jesus and then pray how Spurgeon prayed,

"Make me as sinless as a sinful person can be."

When you face a difficult year, remember that God is still on the throne, God is still Holy, and...

God is Still to be Served

Isaiah 6:2 & 8

Isaiah 6:2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

The seraphim are serving God, face God is holy, their feet – lowly, wings they fly – they are willing to serve God.

Isaiah 6:8 Then 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!”

Isaiah. Send me. The only proper response to the Holy of God is to serve God. God doesn't exist for you, you exist for God.

God doesn't exist so that He can serve your needs and desires, you exist to serve God. Listen, no matter what is happening in the world with Covid we are still to serve God. The same with Afghanistan and Southeast LA challenges. Look at the service that God commissions Isaiah to engage. Speak...speak without any apparent results for 40 years. I believe that one of the greatest kinds of service that you can render to the king of kings is when you share the gospel of Jesus Christ with someone. (Johnny Hunt) God has given you job, your ministry, your house, your education, your ability to help people in the aftermath of the storm as a platform to point people to Jesus Christ. Ask yourself this week, how can I point someone to Jesus Christ? Before you point someone to Jesus Christ, you need to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. You need to be saved. You need to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. How? Repenting of your sins and receiving Jesus Christ by faith. Let's pray.