

- ***Isaiah 6:1-8*** As Isaiah is recording this message that he is receiving from God that is to be delivered to the people of Jerusalem and Judah, we find this vision that he has where he is able to see the Lord on His throne in all of His majestic glory. He sees seraphim, these great heavenly beings with 6 wings, surrounding the throne in this great temple structure. Not surprisingly, Isaiah trembles before the throne and exclaims how unworthy he is because of his sin to be in the presence of such awesome power. But then we see one of the seraphim come to him and cleanse him with a burning coal from the altar of God.
- Isaiah takes a step back from the scene as he has the Lord of the Lord asking for someone, anyone that He can send to deliver this message of judgement to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. Thankfully, our Lord doesn't have to look far to find someone to step up because Isaiah stands up quickly and says, "Here am I. Send me!" The rest of the book of Isaiah details the mission that God gives Isaiah to accomplish in warning the people of impending judgement, but then also telling of deliverance that would be available.
- How impressed we ought to be with the actions of Isaiah in this text. We could talk about his mindset and humility in recognizing that he was not worthy to be in the presence of Almighty God because of his sin. His attitude is one that teaches us a lot about how God reacts to sin. However, I want us to focus on him standing and raising his hand and telling the Lord that if he needed a job done then he was the man that God could depend on to get the job done. Isaiah was provocative in his service to God.
- This year, we have focused as a congregation on learning how to be better servants of God's Kingdom. We have discussed a wide range of different aspects of what it means to be good servants of the Kingdom and how we can serve different individuals in this life. We want to conclude this study by putting the rubber to the road. Our efforts this year will be for nothing if we don't go on from this year being able to use these things we've talked about. It starts with me. I need to stand up and tell the Lord, "Here I am. Send me!" Let's use the rest of our time discussing how we can make sure to follow Isaiah's example of proactivity.

I. Recognize the need.

- A. As Isaiah is standing in the presence of the Lord, he hears the Lord declare that He is in need of someone to send and go forward as a messenger to the people. Isaiah would not have been able to stand up and tell the Lord to send him if there wasn't a need presented.
- B. This year, we have considered many New Testament texts that detail to us the many needs that are present within the Kingdom of God. One Text that we can go to sum all of this up is our focus Text of the year of **Philippians 2:1-11**. I want to specifically focus on **vv.1,2** because I believe Paul details the need that is present within the Kingdom.
- C. Paul desires that unity, love, and purpose be present among the Lord's people, but they won't be present unless individuals are willing to stand up and make them be present. The need is known, so where do we go from here?

II. Recognize my duty.

- A. I want to look again at Isaiah's reaction in **Isaiah 6** one more time. Remember that initially, Paul has feelings of unworthiness to be in the presence of the Lord and these heavenly beings because he recognizes his spiritual brokenness because of his sin. **(Isa. 6:5)**
- B. One of that seraphim quickly comes to him with a burning coal, touches the lips of Isaiah, and tells him that he is now clean and his sins have been forgiven. **(Isa. 6:6,7)** It is just after this that the Lord asks who will go for Him to deliver His message. You think that Isaiah having his sins forgiven might have something to do with him being so proactive in standing up? I certainly do.
- C. We, like Isaiah, have been forgiven of our sins by a merciful God. We are not worthy to be in His presence, to be in fellowship with Him, or to be used in his service...yet He makes it known to us that He is in need of workers in this world. Jesus said that the fields are white for harvest, but that He needs workers. **(Luke 10:2)** We ought to be those workers. I'm convinced that Isaiah felt it was his duty to serve because He had been forgiven, and we must feel this same sense of responsibility.

III. Get to the work.

- A. Isaiah recognized that there was a need for the Lord's will to be done. He recognized that he had a duty to help fulfill the Lord's will. He put one and one together and finally realized that he simply needed to step up and get to work. "Here I am. Send me!", was his call to get to work.

- B. The Lord hesitated not for one bit. He gave Isaiah his orders, and Isaiah got to work. We need to recognize that there still exists a need and that we still have the duty to help fulfill the Lord's will at this time. This year, we have been well taught and reminded that we have a duty to serve the Lord's Kingdom as a people who have been forgiven.
- C. We need to be a people, more specifically, we need to be individuals who will stand up one by one recognizing the need and our duty and say to the Lord, "Here I am. Send me!" Let's finish up by reminding ourselves of the work that is laid before us.

IV. Send me to be a strong servant of the Kingdom of God.

- A. Send me to be more like Jesus.
 - 1. I need to go and have the same servant mindset that was first in Christ Jesus.
 - 2. "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude which was also in Christ Jesus." **(Phil. 2:2-4)**
- B. Send me with proper motivation.
 - 1. I need to make sure to go and serve all people because I first and foremost love them.
 - 2. "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing." **(I Corinthians 13:1-3)**
- C. Send me with humility.
 - 1. I can be a strong servant if I am willing to humble myself to the point of service.
 - 2. "So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."" **(John 13:12-15)**
- D. Send me to my place of service.
 - 1. I need to give effort to find my place of effective service where I can do the most good.
 - 2. "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," It is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body." **(I Corinthians 12:14-20)**
- E. Send me to serve my church.
 - 1. I must be sure to give every effort to build up those that I have committed to work with.
 - 2. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near." **(Hebrews 10:23-25)**
- F. Send me to serve my spouse.
 - 1. I must fulfill my role of being the godly spouse that God expects for me to be.
 - 2. "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ as is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body...Nevertheless each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. " **(Eph. 5:22,23,33)**
- G. Send me to serve the next generation.
 - 1. As a parent and a mentor I must always strive to teach those coming after me and be a good example for them to follow.
 - 2. "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk to them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontal on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates." **(Deut. 6:6-9)**

H. Send me behind the scenes.

1. I must be willing to do that work behind the scenes that isn't always noticed and is sometimes under appreciated.
2. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." **(Matthew 6:1-6)**

I. Send me without partiality.

1. I must be willing to serve others when the need and opportunity rises, regardless of who they are.
2. "My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? Listen, my beloved brethren; did not God choose the poor of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." **(James 2:1-9)**

J. Send me to the lost.

1. I must share the bread of life that I have been given with those others who are in desperate need.
2. "And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into His harvests."" **(Luke 10:2)**

Certainly we see that there are many needs that the Lord has within His kingdom. We have spent an entire year considering the many ways in which we can serve to fulfill these needs within the kingdom of God. May we be individuals who stand up when the need is realized and say, "Here I am, Lord. Here I am, send me to serve You and Your Kingdom!" May God help us to take these things and move forward in even greater service to His Kingdom, and may He be glorified as we give every effort to fulfill the roles that we have been given as servants in His Mighty Kingdom.