

Sermon Title: God is Holy

Sermon Text: Isaiah 6:1-7

What did you think of the version of “Holy, Holy, Holy” that we just sang?

- **“I liked it!”** It was different... And different catches your attention...”
- **“I did not like it!”** That song is supposed to be done a certain way and that wasn’t it... It is not right to change what shouldn’t be changed!”
- **“It was fine!”** - You told us it would be different, so I set my expectations accordingly! Different doesn’t make a thing good or bad, just set apart!

Let me ask another question... **What do you think about a God who is Holy?** It doesn’t really matter whether we like it or not... what matters is that we understand what “Holy” means, & how we are to respond to a God who is!

Like the song we just sang, with Holy in it’s title; a Holy God is a God who is...

- **Different, “other than” us, & “other than” any other god(s)!**
“Different” leads to unpredictability, & unpredictability we can’t control!
- “Righteous”! There is a certain way about Him, & there is no deviation! His righteousness makes Him always “right”, “true”, & “trust-worthy”!
- **“Set-apart”!** He is altogether different, but He also requires of us, His people, an altogether different/set-apart response... in light of His Holiness!

Psalm 96:9 - “Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!”

1 Peter 1:16 - “For it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.””

A right understanding of God’s holiness is not just an intellectual pursuit, it is a pursuit of knowing, making known, & living in response too, the One who is “other-than”, “righteous”, and “set-apart” – the one true & Holy God!

The prophet Isaiah had a vision of God that accomplished this very thing! **God’s holiness was exposed & that exposure revealed where his/our holiness is found!**

Encountering God’s holiness led Isaiah to a “God-center mind”, a “repentant spirit”, “grateful heart”, a “submissive will”, a “Holy life”, & a “glorious purpose”.

Let’s read **Isaiah 6:1-8**

A **“God-center mind”** – vs. 1-4 Isaiah saw a God enthroned... a God high and lifted up... a God whose presence was all-encompassing... A God who was worthy of even the worship of angels... A God who was not only “holy”, but “Holy, Holy, Holy”! Isaiah’s mind was centered on the glory of God!

Corporate worship has the same aim! Are we here to set our minds on God?

A **“repentant spirit”** – vs. 2 & 5 Isaiah witnessed the angels covering their faces and their feet with their wings... Even the angels of heaven were unclean & unworthy to even look upon the holiness of God! He is that Holy!

Isaiah, being in the presence of such a Holy God, recognized that he too was unclean & unworthy – **“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, & I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips...”** Do we recognize this?

A **“grateful heart”** – vs. 6 Even though God is Holy... He provides for our greatest need... **“Behold, this (coal from the altar) has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”**

Isaiah was touched by God’s grace, & so are we **in Christ!** Are we grateful?

A **“submissive will”** – vs. 8 **“I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, & who will go for us?’ Then I said ‘Here am I! Send me!’”**

An encounter with the Holy One does not leave us **complacent!** If God calls, a true encounter with His holiness will always lead us to say “Yes!”

A **“holy life”** – vs. 8 Isaiah was not only moved to say “Yes”, but he was also equipped to say “yes” thru this encounter with the Holy One! Are we...?

Holiness is not something we attain through our efforts, but receive by faith! Once we receive it, we are then ready to live “rightly”, “different”, & “set-apart”!

Our lives in this world, as Christians, are to be a reflection of God! Does the world see “different (other than)”... “righteousness”... “set-apart”... lives in us? We must remember our holy God’s calling to a holy life... **1 Peter 1:16**

A **“glorious purpose”** – vs. 9 **“Go, and say to this people...”** Isaiah was given a purpose by God beyond himself – to be a prophet! The power of God’s holiness is transformative to our nature, but also to our purpose/calling!

We too are called to “go”, speak God’s Word, represent God’s Kingdom, & live as God’s **“Holy ones”** in this world! Let’s give ourselves wholly to this holy calling!

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