

There's Bad News and Good News!

Isaiah 6:1-8

### 1. Bad News

Let's review the Ten Commandment list – we have to move fast.

- 1 You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 2 You shall not make idols.
- 3 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
- 4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5 Honor your father and your mother.
- 6 You shall not murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10 You shall not covet.

Anybody break just one of the Ten Commandments?

*James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

### 2. More Bad News

If you have no checks on your list, you can't be saved. You can't be saved by keeping the rules. You can't be saved by being good. **If you think you don't have any sin, you can't be saved.**

Donald Trump when asked about his faith:

"People are so shocked when they find ... out I am Protestant. I am Presbyterian. And I go to church and I love God and I love my church," he said.

**Moderator Frank Luntz asked Trump whether he has ever asked God for forgiveness for his actions.** "I am not sure I have. I just go on and try to do a better job from there. I don't think so," he said. "I think if I do something wrong, I think, I just try and make it right. I don't bring God into that picture. I don't."

What can Donald Trump do to make himself right before God? Nothing. Can he be forgiven if he does not bring God into the picture? No.

### 3. Even more Bad News.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
None is righteous, no not one.  
The wages of sin is death.

Why is our sin a big deal? We are going to stand before God in judgment, and He is a big God!

*In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.*

Uzziah was king of Judah in the late 700s BC. He settled things down. Before him there had been chaos. Things were secure under Uzziah; but now he was gone. What would happen next? Isaiah was praying about who would be king. **Isaiah is reminded who is the true King.**

See the King seated on His throne; He is in charge no matter what has happened, or what will happen. We get a glimpse into the Throne room of God. God is in control.

*2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.*

Seraphim were created to live in the presence of God. They had six wings – only need two to fly. Why extra wings? With 2 to cover feet – feet are a reminder they were created. There is a gap between the Creator and the created. With two they cover their faces. Even creatures created to live in the presence of God cannot fully look at God's face.

*3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*

Repetition in Hebrew gives emphasis. Repeat twice. "Verily, verily." "Abraham, Abraham." Seraphim do not say Holy or Holy, Holy, but three times. Superlative. This is the ultimate.

What does Holy mean? Righteousness, purity? Yes, but it is richer and more complex. It means "otherness" -- not like anything else. It is hard for us to compare when it has no comparison. Nothing else in the universe is Holy. We are so small compared to God.

The Holiness of God is not just about His otherness, but about His overness. He is ultimately beyond us. God is so far above us, God is so much more powerful than us, God is so much more holy than we are that we should tremble in His presence. We should feel the weight of our sin when we are in the presence of God.

A. W. Tozer: It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current in these middle years of the 20th century is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers something amounting to a moral calamity.

All the problems of heaven and earth, though they were to confront us together and at once, would be nothing compared with the overwhelming problem of God: That He is; what He is like; and what we as moral beings must do about Him.

[Every man's] mighty burden is his obligation to God. It includes an instant and lifelong duty to love God with every power of mind and soul, to obey Him perfectly, and to worship Him acceptably. And when man's laboring conscience tells him that he has done none of these things, but has from childhood been guilty of foul revolts against the Majesty in the heavens, the inner pressure of self-accusation may become too heavy to bear.

When people in scripture encounter God they are shaken.

Jesus tells disciples to cast nets on other side. Luke 5:8 *But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"*

Revelation 1:17-18 *When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.*

Isaiah's response v. 5 *Woe is me, I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips.*

Woe is a term to denote the worst thing is about to happen to you. Woe to you Tyre and Sidon. You are about to get it. Isaiah says, "Woe is me." I am undone – ruined, lost. My resources that hold me together have just been overwhelmed and I am falling apart – in the presence of God. I am sinful. I am so sinful I cannot take it. As Isaiah comprehends his smallness – God reaches down to him.

#### 4. The Good News

Isaiah 6:6-7 *Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."*

The fire is to burn the sacrifice on the altar. The sacrifice on the altar pointed to the cross. Your guilt is taken away. Your sin is covered. God does not let us off the hook. We have to be holy to enter into God's presence. **Jesus comes to die for us and impart His holiness to us.**

Note that even though Isaiah gets a glimpse into the throne room of heaven there is no in depth description of God. What does God look like? Isaiah does not tell us here, but he spends the rest of the book of Isaiah describing God.

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-7 *"Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. 2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. 3 "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you,*

*6 Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

Isaiah 53 *He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our grief And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

We are all guilty. He died in our place. Jesus died for me. Jesus died for you. He died to pay the price for your sins. He is coming again to judge you. Are you good or are you guilty? The bad news is that you are guilty. The bad news is the wages of sin is death. The Good News is that Jesus died for you, He was buried, and on the third day He rose again. We celebrate His resurrection today. Have you put your trust in Him? Have you surrendered to Him?

Jane and I painted our dining room a few weeks ago. It is not a big room, I thought it would be a one day project – it turned into three days. It takes longer to get ready to paint than it does to paint. It's even worse if you have to paint outside. If you have to scrape all the old paint off of wood, it takes forever to prepare, but you have to scrape it down to the wood to get it ready to paint.

Does God need to scrape you down to the wood? Do you want God to just paint over all your mess? If He does that, the new may not stick. New paint won't stick on flaky old paint. You have to scrape away the old. That is what God wants to do to your heart. That is what it means to repent. You scrape away all the old, you turn away from a life of sin, and allow God to cleanse away the old and then come back with the new.

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*Luke 9:23-25 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"*

*Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Will you answer God's call to serve Him? Isaiah realized he had no strength when he was in the presence of God, but he was also reminded of the great power of God. Isaiah went, not in his strength, but in God's. God calls for you to do the same thing.

