

Sermon Title: The Best Ability is Availability

Sermon Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an increased readiness for service on behalf of God.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 experiences necessary to be more available for service on behalf of God.

- I. A correct view of God. Vv.1-3
- II. A correct view of mankind. Vv.4-5
- III. A correct view of salvation. Vv.6-7
- IV. A correct view of service. V.8

I. A correct view of God. Vv.1-3

- A. A correct view of God is hindered when we compare God with earthly rules. V.1a
 - 1. Uzziah reigned for 52 years, prosperously. **2 Chronicles 26:1-15**
 - 2. Many people fell away from God and were involved in sin. **2 Kings 15:1-4**
 - 3. Uzziah was struck with leprosy. **2 Chronicles 26:16-20**
 - 4. Azariah was another name for Uzziah.
- B. A correct view of God is hindered when we are worldly focused. V.1b
Isaiah's view of God would have possibly occurred within 12 calendar months before or after the King's death in 739 B.C. The state of the nation of Israel in the preceding five chapters were prosperity and well-being in the site of man, but was one of judgment and deliverance in the site of God.
 - 1. Woe to the materialist. **5:8-10**
 - 2. Woe to the drunkards. **5:11-12**
 - 3. Woe to the wicked lifestyles. **5:13-17**
 - 4. Woe to the doubters of God. **5:18-19**
 - 5. Woe to those who call evil good. **5:20**
 - 6. Woe to the prideful. **5:21**
 - 7. Woe to the drunken bribe takers. **5:22-23**
 - 8. Woe to those who face the consequences. **5:24-30**
- C. A correct view of God is illustrated in the heavenly vision. V.1c-3
In order to keep from falling into apathy and absenteeism, that keeps us from availability we need a constant fresh perspective of God regularly.
 - 1. See the Lord sitting on the throne – emphasized that God is indeed King of Israel.
 - 2. See the Lord High and Lifted Up – the Lord high and lifted up symbolizes God's position before the nations.
 - 3. See the Lord's train filling the temple – Speaks of God's royalty and majesty.
 - 4. See the Lord's temple – The temple and the temple sacrifices pictured the righteous dealing of the sovereign God with His covenant people.
 - 5. See the Lord's servants – The word seraphim comes from the verb saraph ("to burn") and appears in the context of holiness. Seraphims are seen as burning with holiness, in light of their praise for God and His Holiness. God is set apart from the power, practice and presence of sin, His is absolute righteousness and goodness.

II. A correct view of mankind. Vv.4-5

Man is in need of holiness. Therefore, man must be made holy, if he is to approach God. Man as a result of his unholiness, and God's Holiness must be made holy, he needs new life in which his sins are forgiven and done away with so that we are actually counted as being as separated from sin as God is.

The presence of God is the presence of awesomeness, not something that is common. It is the presence of power, not weakness. Therefore in God's presence we realize His majesty, Holiness, and Glory, therefore, man realizes his utter sinful lust in the presence of God.

Job 42:5-6 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. **6** Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and ashes."

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

"In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness." – Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*[Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations and Quotes*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1998, p. 268]

"Resolved, never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life." - Jonathan Edwards, quoted in Jerry Bridges, *Pursuit of Holiness* [Ibid. p. 269]

III. A correct view of salvation. Vv.6-7

Salvation is ultimately man being cleansed by God, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Here we have a picture of Isaiah's guilt, sin, and condemnation being removed. The entire nation was in need of this cleansing, and as it was then, so it is now.

"What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus, what can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus!"

A. The Spirit regenerates the believer, and gives them a new nature.

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

B. The Spirit baptizes the believer into the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

C. The Spirit indwells the believer.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

D. The Spirit seals the believer.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

IV. A correct view of service. V.8

Before we are ready for service, we must first have a correct view of God, secondly, a correct view of mankind, thirdly a correct view of salvation.