

Theme: Like Isaiah, we are commissioned to speak God's truth, and the measure of success is faithfulness to the truth, not the response of the hearers.

I. Intro – Review and Relate to Last Week

- A. Difficult circumstance - Uzziah's impending death
- B. Isaiah's vision of God
- C. Isaiah's revelation of his own sin
- D. God's immense mercy and forgiveness
- E. Now we move to Isaiah's response
- F. Must follow this pattern of law/moralism

II. God's Call for A Messenger

- A. Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?
 - 1. The King desires a messenger
 - 2. Who will take His message forth
- B. Our expectation: a Seraph?
 - 1. Surely one of these mighty ones will be chosen
 - 2. Isaiah too weak, too sinful, unclean lips

III. Isaiah's Response to God's Call

- A. A quick willing response
- B. Isaiah does not even know the task yet!
- C. This is the result of grace!

IV. Isaiah's Difficult Commission

- A. Difficult message - always but never (v9)
 - 1. Intensive - infinitive absolute after finite verb
 - 2. He knows they will not listen
 - 3. Michael Card - The Prophet (chorus)
- B. The terrible effect of Isaiah's words
 - 1. Harden, dull, close them completely (v10)
 - a. Completely - heart, ears, eyes - chiasm
 - b. Active - you make them hard (hiphil impv)
 - c. LXX translation to ease this hard saying
 - d. NT quotes both ways
 - 1. MT - John 12:40
 - 2. LXX - Mat 13:14-15; Acts 28:26-27
 - 2. The reason for this hardening effect
 - a. God's mysterious sovereignty (hymn)
 - b. Their hearts will not respond to truth
 - c. Shadow of response to Christ/Gospel in NT
 - d. Preaching will get a response - good or ill
 - e. Shows truth may not be compromised for response

V. Isaiah's Cry of Compassion

- A. How long O Lord?

1. His compassion for the people
2. How Sweet and Aweful - last 2 verses

B. God's difficult answer

1. Until the exile - land empty, forsaken
2. Even the tenth - tithe, holy - laid waste
3. This is a hard word

C. A final ray of hope

1. The remnant will be stump for future growth
2. Key theme in Isaiah, prophets, Scripture

VI. Applying the Word - Isaiah's Commission & Ours

A. Do we hear God's call for messengers of Gospel?

1. He does not send seraphim or angels
2. He looks for men and women to take Gospel
3. Do we respond like Isaiah? - here am I, send me!

B. Do we see the call is faithfulness - not acclaim?

1. Do we see God told Isaiah most would reject?
2. Do we see Jesus said narrow gate and way?
3. Do we see we must still bear witness of Christ?
4. Isaiah knew they would reject - and still did!
5. Do I long for faithfulness - or acceptance?

6. God is looking for faithful servants to speak truth

C. Do we have a heart of compassion for the lost?

1. This was the heart of Isaiah, Moses, Paul, etc.
2. Does my heart cry out 'how long'? for lost?
3. Am I faithful to truth and compassionate for lost?
4. Calvin quote
5. Do I see God always has a remnant - & act in faith?

D. Communion - Thankfulness and Compassion

1. Play 'How Sweet and Aweful'
2. Bread - thankful for my salvation
3. Wine - forgive my lack of compassion - give to me

The Call of Isaiah - Part 2 - His Commissioning

Isaiah 6:8-13
 Matthew 13:10-17
 May 3, 2009
 Communion
 Revelation 1:4-5

I am the prophet and I smolder and burn
I scream and cry and wonder why you never seemed to learn
To hear with your own ears with your own eyes to see
I am the prophet, won't you listen to me?
I am the prophet, won't you listen to me?

Michael Card "The Prophet"

For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hardly
hear, and they have closed their eyes...
Isaiah 6:10 Septuagint
(My Translation)

How Sweet and Awful Is the Place - Isaac Watts

1. How sweet and awful is the place
With Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays
The choicest of her stores.
2. While all our hearts and all our songs
Join to admire the feast,
Each of us cry, with thankful tongues,
"Lord, why was I a guest?"
3. "Why was I made to hear Thy voice,
And enter while there's room,
When thousands make a wretched choice,
And rather starve than come?"
4. 'Twas the same love that spread the feast
That sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste,
And perished in our sin.

5. Pity the nations, O our God,
Constrain the earth to come;
Send Thy victorious Word abroad,
And bring the strangers home.
6. We long to see Thy churches full,
That all the chosen race
May, with one voice and heart and soul,
Sing Thy redeeming grace.

On the one hand, natural affection toward those to whom one must preach
will prevent a cold and harsh, or even cruel presentation of the truth. On
the other, natural feelings and affections must not prevent the minister from
declaring the entire truth. Here is the problem that must be faced by all true
ministers of God. - John Calvin

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you
from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven
spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful
witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
Revelation 1:4-5