

Sunday, May 30, 2021 – The Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8 - Isaiah's vision and call

1 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty – high and lifted up.

Uzziah had been king for fifty-two years. For many Israelites he had been the only king they had ever known. Isaiah lost not only his king. He also lost a personal friend.

During a time of great change – during a time of great personal, national, and global anxiety and loss, we need to see the Lord high and lifted up.

Were you able to see the Lord high and lifted up this past year?

There is no mention of anyone else being in the Temple that day, but I believe that many, many people had flocked to the Temple that day.

Cf. the Sunday after the assassination of President Kennedy – the evening of September 11, 2001, and the Sunday after.

Isaiah saw four things that day.

He saw the Lord.

He saw himself.

5 - “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

The closer you get to God, the more clearly you see your own sin.

The more you see the glory of God, the more you realize how far you fall short of the glory of God.

He saw God's cleansing power.

6-7 - Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

The coal had been touched by two things – blood and fire.

Blood removes sin; fire brings power for holy living.

He saw the world.

8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Vs. Moses – “Hear am I; send Aaron.”

Psalm 29 – The power of the Voice of the Lord

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶The LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
In the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

*In Genesis 1 God created everything simply by speaking.
3 – He said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

*Just think of the power of the voice of the Lord when He says –
Matthew 28: 20 – "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Mark 1: 17 – "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
Mark 2: 5, 11 – "Your sins are forgiven . . . Stand up, take your mat, and go to your home."
Mark 4: 39 – "Peace! Be still!"
Mark 5: 8 – "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit."
John 1: 42 – "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas (which is translated Peter).
John 8: 11 – "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."
John 11: 43 – "Lazarus, come out!"
Acts 1: 8 – "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."*

John 3:1-17 – Being born into eternal life

Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus is only in the Gospel of John.

1 - Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

Two members of the Sanhedrin are mentioned as being followers of Jesus – Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea.

Where were they the night that Jesus was arrested, tried, and condemned?

2 - He came to Jesus by night.

Thank you, Jesus, that you are patient and gracious with us even when we come to you by night.

3 – Jesus: "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Being born and having eternal life are the language of John.

*The synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) speak of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven.
Paul talks about righteousness and justification.*

9 – Nicodemus: "How can these things be?"

*The last words of Nicodemus in this conversation are "How can these things be?" Fortunately, we know more.
John 7: 50-51 – Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?"*

John 19: 39 – Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

14-16 – Jesus: "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."