

Whom Shall I Send?

Isaiah 6: 8-13

Isaiah lived in a day much like ours. The people of Judah had developed a sense of arrogance toward God. They were His chosen people; He had brought them out of Egypt, given them the land, and blessed them greatly. Surely, God wouldn't bring judgment on His chosen people. Sadly, they found themselves facing God's judgment. God will not wink at sin.

America is much the same. We were founded on Christian principles and prospered under the mighty hand of God. We have been blessed for so long that we feel nothing could hinder our prosperity. [Is.60:12 – For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.](#) Isaiah was called to warn the people to flee the wrath to come. There is a need today for Christians to yield unto the Lord, serving Him with all their hearts. We need to make our voices heard, willing to proclaim the Gospel and point others to Christ. God is asking, "Whom Shall I Send?" Let's take a moment to consider the [charges](#) associated with the call as we think on that question: [Whom Shall I Send?](#)

I. The Clarity of the Call (8) – [Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.](#) In the preceding verses we find that Isaiah had a glorious encounter with the Lord Himself. He had come to reveal unto Isaiah the work that must be done in Judah. King Uzziah had died and this was a time of decision for them. Clearly God had a word for Isaiah and us.

A. The Call's Authority – Isaiah immediately recognized that he was in the presence of the Lord. [He saw Him upon His throne high and lifted up.](#) King Uzziah was dead, but the King of glory was still seated on His throne. By the way, He is still on the throne today! We serve a sovereign Lord who possesses all power and authority. The point I'm making is that Isaiah had received a call directly from God. He saw the holiness and power of God as well as the fact that he was undone. In fact, all of Judah was undone and wretched before holy God.

- We must get to the place that we recognize who God is. We have met today to worship the Lord. He is worthy of our praise. He is worthy of our devotion. He alone has the authority to direct our lives. When God speaks, we ought to listen, amen?
- I want to recognize Jesus and submit myself unto His will. If Jesus isn't our authority, we might as well shut the doors and go home. I'm not depending on the authority of men, but in God and God alone!

B. The Call's Anticipation – Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? The Lord hadn't come with a mere suggestion for service; He came with a work for Isaiah to do and fully expected him to be obedient to the call. Isaiah was God's man for the job, but the Lord wanted to know if he was willing.

- Listen, God doesn't burden our hearts with suggestions or ideas for consideration. When the Spirit begins to deal with our hearts, God expects us to move! This thing of serving the Lord is a serious endeavor. If you are a child of God, there is a work to do! God is asking whom shall I send? We weren't saved just to fill 18" on a church pew. If that's all the desire I had, I would seek God to make sure I was saved.
- Now Isaiah didn't have to be obedient; God could've used someone else, but He intended for Isaiah to prophecy to Judah. You don't have to do anything, but you'll never be happy in the Lord ignoring His will. The church will go on, with or without us. God's will isn't open for debate. If He has spoken to your heart, you might as well get busy!

C. The Call's Acceptance – Then said I, Here am I; send me. Isaiah accepted the call of God. He was willing to do whatever God asked of him. Our churches need more like Isaiah, those who will say, "Here am I, send me." We need those who will go wherever, and do whatever for whomever the Lord desires.

- These weren't easy times for a prophet of God. The people had no use for a real man of God. They didn't want to hear the truth. They wanted to hear how good they were and how well things were in Judah. They certainly didn't want to hear a message of repentance.
- Accepting God's call isn't always an easy task, but it is always rewarding. Are you willing to go for God? Are you willing to stand for Jesus? Are you willing to share the gospel with a lost and dying world? If you are saved, God expects you to heed His call. The question is will we accept it or reject it? Only you can decide. You may be thinking what difference will it make anyway? Well let's look at:

II. The Necessity of the Call (9-10; Mat.13:14-15) – The people of Judah were in great need. They were living in prosperity, but spiritually they were dead or dying. They had forsaken God. These two verses are quoted six times in the NT. God has something to say concerning the condition of men and the necessity of the call.

- Turn with me to [Mat.13:14-15](#). Jesus quoted this passage as He dealt with humanity's need in His day. Paul dealt with their need in [Acts 28](#); [Rom.11](#). We are dealing with the same need and

attitude today. Men choose to do whatever they please and feel they are accountable to no one. They will one day stand before God and give an account of the life they lived. What does Jesus reveal about the condition of men and the necessity of the call?

A. Their Heart is Deceived (Mat.13:15) – For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed*; Jesus said *the people's heart is waxed gross*. That literally means their hearts have become fat. Our society is pleasure driven. Men will do whatever it takes to satisfy the flesh. There is no concern for tomorrow, only the here and now. What can I do to please myself? Their hearts are so filled with pleasure seeking, fleshly desires, and sinfulness that they no longer feel the conviction of the Spirit.

- We are in desperate days. This is even becoming evident in the church! Our hearts aren't centered on God as they should be. We need to take inventory of our lives and realize where this world stands with God.

B. The Hearing is Dull – *and their ears are dull of hearing*. Isaiah prophesied for years, but the people wouldn't listen. Jesus taught with great authority and wisdom, but they rejected His teaching. Many sit on church pews every Sunday and never hear what the Lord is saying to their heart. The world is filled with those who choose not to listen to the voice of God. They need to hear of God's great love and the coming judgment also. Keep telling the good news of Jesus!

C. Their Sight is Distorted – *and their eyes they have closed*. Many have closed their eyes to the truth. They can clearly see what sin is doing in their lives, but choose to deny the truth. They see the destruction sin causes, but refuse to do anything about it.

- You and I see the effects of sin concerning our children, but can't seem to find the courage or desire to take a stand. The world is filled with those who are spiritually blind in need of a Savior. Let's share the truth that they might see!

D. Their Savior is Denied (15b) – *lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them*. Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they wouldn't repent. He longed to see men come to Him, believing He is the Christ. He is saying if they would only open their hearts, ears, and eyes, and be converted, I would heal them.

- This world has rejected and denied the only One who has the power to save men's souls. He is the only way of salvation. He is the only way to life eternal. He is their only hope. Humanity needs to see Jesus as the only solution to their problems. There is a need!

III. The Reality of the Call (Is.6:11-13) – We've seen the clarity of the call and the necessity of the call, but there is also the reality of the call.

A. It Requires Commitment (11a) – *Then said I, Lord, how long?* Isaiah knew he faced a desperate situation that would be difficult. There is, however, no place to sit down or quit. I fear that things in America are going to get worse and worse. We are living in those perilous days. We must remain committed to the work of the Lord. Jeremiah preached for 40 years and never saw a convert, but he kept on preaching.

- As long as the church age, the day of grace, remains, there is hope for the lost. Preacher keep on preaching, teacher keep on teaching, singer keep on singing, witness keep on witnessing! Whatever God has called you to do, keep doing it. The world needs the church to stand for Jesus!

B. It Reveals Judgment (11-12) – *And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,* ^[12] *And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.* God didn't offer Isaiah much hope for the people of Judah. God was longsuffering, but He knew their hearts. He knew they would not repent. God is a God of mercy, but His mercy will not endure forever. Sin must be dealt with. If the people refuse to deal with it, then God will.

- I believe that America is on a collision course with the judgment of God. We must sound the alarm to flee the wrath to come. Many likely will never hear, but there may be one who would. Is it possible to place a value on man's soul? Let's warn all we can to turn to God!

C. It Remains Confident (13) – *But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.* Isaiah probably felt like his work would be of little value, that he wouldn't see much fruit, but God promised a remnant would return from captivity. There will be a remnant left when the Lord returns for His church. The work that we do for Christ is never in vain. I have seen our Lord work miracles in the lives of men. He remains on His throne. He will never fail.

- If you are concerned about a loved one in need of salvation, don't give up. Jesus is still saving souls today. You just keep your confidence in Christ and lay your burdens at His feet. Things are desperate, but our God is bigger than the problems of life!

Conclusion: Isaiah lived in a day of desperation and corruption, much like the day in which we live. Judah had abandoned the Lord, refusing to repent of sin and return to Him. God had been merciful, but judgment was on the horizon. Even in the face of impending chastisement, God sent a prophet to warn them yet again.

I fear that we too are nearing that day. God remains merciful, but when mercy and grace are refused, judgment is all that remains. Our nation has turned her back on the Lord. There is little, if any, concern for righteousness. However, we remain in the day of grace. God is still dealing with the hearts of men. There is a work to continue. God is seeking those who are willing to stand for Him and proclaim truth. Are we willing to respond to the call? Are there loved ones and friends you are concerned about today? Are you willing to go as God sends?

Maybe you have never been saved and the Spirit has revealed your need for salvation. If so, don't put it off another moment. Come to Christ and be saved today!