

ENCOUNTERS THAT EMPOWER

Hot Lips at the Altar

Isaiah 6:1-10

Purpose: To inspire people to move out into ministry.

Proposition—God meets with us in order for us to be inspired to serve.

Introduction:

1. Isaiah went to church one day to encounter God in an unusual way.
2. He described his experience with God with seraphs, shaking doorposts and smoke.
3. Isaiah was in the middle of a transition “The year King Uzziah died” (1).
4. Frequently God comes to us in times of change, because we are open with him.

#God meets and ministers to people at times of death.

I. God-sighting (1).

- A. God appeared to Isaiah (1).
 1. God takes the initiative coming to us.
 2. He doesn't stand aloof and require us to show more interest to him.
- B. God is praised (3). “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord almighty.”
 1. Who's the most impressive person you ever met?
#Bev shook hands with Robert Redford and was in awe of him.
#Secret Service friend guarded Ronald Reagan who impressed him with his warmth and charm.
 2. God impressed Isaiah.
 - a. God sat on a throne.
 - b. The train of his robe filled the temple.
 - c. The seraphs led a chant and cheer.

II. God sanctifies.

- A. There's significant contrasts between the divine and us (5).
- B. We have been shaped by sinful people (5).
- C. We fear the outcome (5).
- D. God purifies us.
#Dr. Guthrie, attending a school gathering in a slum area, followed a speaker who had referred to poor neglected children as “the scum of society.” This roused the indignation of Dr. Guthrie. Taking a clean sheet of paper and holding it up, he said, “Yes, this was the scum of society once, only filthy rags but they can be cleansed and

made into spotless white paper, on which you may write the name of God,” So it is with a believer in Christ. Pulpit Helps Feb. 89, pg. 11.

#Purity means freedom from anything foreign to the essential character of a thing.

Pure water is water in which there is nothing but H₂O.

Pure poetry is poetry that has nothing in it that is alien to the nature of poetry—no doggerel, no lumbering prose, no acrid didacticism.

Pure science is science that has no extraneous or irrelevant interest, but is concerned only with objective reality.

A pure person is one whom is nothing alien to the character which was God's intention for him. From Discipline and Discovery by Albert E. Day.

1. Your guilt removed (7).
2. Your sin is atoned for (7).

III. God sends (8). “Whom shall I send?”

- A. God asks us to serve Him.
- B. People will be resistant (9,10).
- C. God sends us out to serve (8).
#Leonard Suhr called to small churches.
#Steve and Joanie Doerr to Africa.
#Tim Isbell to Village Gate Ministries

Conclusion:

1. Our encounter with the Holy One should result in ministry to human need.
2. We're to go and tell people even though they may be resistant.