

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 2nd October 2022
Sermon Title: Why be church: worship
Bible Passage: Isaiah 6: 1 - 8

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- Highlight the key verses from this passage and what it they are saying?
- Does the passage raise any questions for you?

Recapping the Preach

You may heard the phrase, 'I don't do church' as if church is something that we do. Over the next 3 weeks we will explore the question, 'Why be church'.

- If someone asked you, 'why do you go to church?' - how would you answer them?
- What would you say, are the primary functions of the church? Are there any Scriptures you would turn to to support your view?

King Uzziah is dead and he hadn't been a bad king, as far as kings go. He had reigned for 52 years but as he grew powerful he also grew prideful, which led to his downfall (2 Chronicles 26:16). Stu suggested this 'blinded' him to seeing and savouring the Presence of God. But before we stand in judgement of King Uzziah, we should recognise that, from time to time, there are things that stop us seeing and savouring God's Presence.

- What was wrong with what King Uzziah did (2 Chronicles 26:16-21)?
- Stu said we can be blinded by our own concerns and worries, idols or familiarity - which one are you most susceptible to?

Stu described Isaiah's vision of God in the temple and made the point that worship is being captivated and in awe of who God is.

- How is God described in this vision?
- What does Isaiah's vision teach us about the character of God?
- Compare the vision of Isaiah with Jesus. What similarities are there, what seems different?

Stu then described Isaiah's response to the vision (vs.5) and made the point that worship is transformative - we see ourselves clearly in the presence of the Almighty. Stu also made the point that the revelation of God's holiness is followed by His grace.

- What did Isaiah see about himself?
- Why do you think he cried, 'Woe is me! I am ruined!'
- Can you think of times in your life (or Scripture) where a revelation of God's character is followed by grace?

Stu then described the seraphs actions as worship that renews us. They take the coal and place it against Isaiah's lips, taking away his guilt and atoning for his sin.

- How does this picture contrast with the work Jesus has done at the cross?
- What impact do you think this encounter had upon Isaiah?
- Why do you think Isaiah responds with availability and obedience to God's question (vs.8a)?
- What important lessons does this passage teach us about corporate worship and how we come to worship?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Stu concluded that in order to experience worship that fills us with awe, transforms and renews us, we should prepare, participate and come expectant. Which of these do you need to work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>