

Spiritual Senses #1: Sight

Isaiah 6 v 1-8

Context:

Our sermon series for Lent this year is entitled: 'Spiritual Senses'. As human beings we have five *natural* senses – sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell – and in this series we will explore what the Bible has to teach us about our *spiritual* sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. We hope this series will serve to deepen our relationship with God during the special season of Lent, so that we grow in our love for God and others.

We begin the series with the sense of *spiritual sight*. In Isaiah 6: 1-8 we are given a ringside seat as the prophet is blown away by a hair raising vision of the Living God which changed the course of his life for good. Let's see what happened.

Observation:

1. When did Isaiah receive this vision according to v1?
2. Who did Isaiah see in his vision in v 1 and how is he described?
3. What did Isaiah see in v 2 and how are *they* described?
4. What were they doing in v 3?
5. What effect did this have in v 4?
6. What was Isaiah's initial reaction in v 5?
7. What happened in v 6-7?
8. What then happened in v 8?

Meaning:

1. What do you think was the significance of the historical and political context for Isaiah's vision as described at the beginning of v1? What message was God seeking to convey by giving Isaiah this vision at this particular time?
2. What do you think was the significance of the physical description of the seraphim and their words (v2-3)?
3. Why do you think there was such a powerful impact brought about by the words of the seraphim (v 4)?
4. Why do you think Isaiah reacted as he did in v 5? Can you identify with his reaction? To what extent was his reaction similar to that of Simon Peter when he met Jesus in Luke 5 v 8?
5. Why do you think touching Isaiah's lips with the live coal (v 6-7) took his guilt away and atoned for his sin?
6. How was Isaiah's experience in v 8 similar to that of Simon Peter in Luke 5 v 8-11? What can we learn from their experience for our own lives?
7. Do you think what Isaiah experienced was a vision (i.e something he 'saw' *in his mind*) or something he literally saw with his *physical eyes*? Does it matter?

8. In the Bible, spiritual sight can come in different forms, whether seeing with the *eyes*, seeing with the *mind* in a vision or a dream, or seeing with the heart. Explore the following passages and discuss what they teach about spiritual sight:

Exodus 33 v 7-23

1 John 1 v 1-4

Acts 26 v 1-18

Acts 2 v 14-18

Revelation 1 v 9-18

2 Corinthians 4 v 4-6

Ephesians 1 v 15-20

2 Corinthians 3 v 17-18

1 Peter 1 v 8-9

1 John 3 v 1-3

Application:

1. Both Isaiah and Simon Peter's experiences of seeing God's holiness tell us that God doesn't expose us to his glory and holiness in order to repel us, but rather to cleanse us and draw us nearer to him, so that we may serve him in whatever way he calls. How is this biblical truth both a challenge and a comfort to us?
2. Are there any practical things God is calling me to do during Lent in order to help me 'see' Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly?

Pray:

- Thank God that he exposes us to his holiness to cleanse and call us to serve him.
- Pray for God's grace to 'see' Jesus more clearly during the season of Lent.