

Isaiah 6 – Whom Shall I Send? Study Notes

Key Scripture Text

Isaiah 6:8-13 (NKJV)

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’ And He said, ‘Go, and tell this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.” Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.’ Then I said, ‘Lord, how long?’ And He answered: ‘Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, The Lord has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. But yet a tenth will be in it, And will return and be for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump.’”

Devotional Teaching and Application

Truly it is a beautiful story when we see a man brought face to face with the living God and transformed for his calling. Isaiah has just been cleansed by the burning coal from the altar, representing the forgiveness of his sins. And immediately after his cleansing, he hears the voice of the Lord asking, “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Isaiah does not hesitate. He does not offer excuses. He simply says, “Here am I! Send me.” This is the spirit that the disciples of Jesus had when they were called to follow Him. When a person truly understands the grace they have received from God, their natural response is willing submission.

But we must look closely at the commission Isaiah receives. God tells him to go to a people who will hear but not understand, who will see but not perceive. What do we mean by this? Well, men resist the truth from various causes. Do they not? Pride, love of sin, worldly distraction. When people continually rebel against God’s law, part of His righteous judgment is to give them over to their hard hearts. Isaiah is being sent to preach a message that will largely be rejected, leading to the desolation of the land. Yet, he is called to go anyway. In God's order, in God's way, His ministers are called to speak the truth faithfully, regardless of the response. We are accountable to the God who has given us the message, not to the applause of men.

Even in this heavy judgment, God leaves a promise. A stump remains. A "holy seed" will survive. This is the center of the gospel message—God preserves a remnant for Himself, pointing ultimately to the coming of Jesus Christ, the true righteous branch who brings life to a dead tree.

Practical Applications for Obedience

Understanding Isaiah's calling changes how we view our own obedience to God. When God commands us to speak His truth to our neighbors, to our coworkers, or to our own children, we must do so faithfully. We are not promised that everyone will listen or repent, but we are commanded to be obedient to the One who sends us.

1. We must submit to God's calling with a willing heart, actively looking for opportunities to declare, "Here am I, send me."
2. We must remain faithful in teaching God's Word in our homes, even when the culture around us becomes dull of hearing and blind to the truth.
3. We must trust in God's sovereign preservation of His people, knowing that He always keeps a remnant for His own glory.

When we face rejection for the sake of the gospel, we must remember that our authority comes from God. If our authority came from man, we would pray and plead with men to accept it. But God has placed us in our roles as parents, workers, and church members, and we must serve Him alone.

Questions for Children

It is important that our children understand how we respond to God's commands. Use these questions to talk with your children about obeying God quickly and willingly.

1. When God asked who He should send, what did Isaiah say?
2. Does God want us to share His truth even if people don't want to listen?

By discussing these simple truths, we help our children see that obedience to God is always the right choice, no matter what other people do.

Theological Reflection Questions

For parents and older children, take time to reflect on the deeper aspects of God's covenant faithfulness and His righteous judgment over Israel.

1. How does Isaiah's immediate reaction to God's calling demonstrate a proper understanding of biblical submission and our duty to the Lord?
2. What does God's command to Isaiah teach us about His justice when a nation continually breaks His law and rejects His covenant?

These questions should guide our understanding of God's sovereignty over the hearts of men and the absolute necessity of His grace in our own lives.

Daily Scripture Memory Verse

Make it a priority this week to commit this verse to heart, remembering the ready posture we must have before our Lord.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8, NKJV)

May this verse continually remind us of our duty to the King.

Family Prayer Prompt

Read this prayer aloud together as a family to close your time of worship.

"Our Father in heaven, we thank You for Your holiness and Your grace. You have cleansed us from our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ, just as You cleansed Isaiah. Lord, give us the spirit that the disciples of Jesus had. When You call us to serve, give us the courage to say, 'Here am I! Send me.' Forgive us for the times we have been dull of hearing or slow to obey Your law. We know that in God's order, in God's way, we are called to be faithful messengers of Your truth, even when the world rejects it. Strengthen us to stand firm, trusting that You are sovereign over all things and that You will preserve Your people. In the name of Jesus Christ, our King, Amen."