

## Advent—Week 2—When Man Meets God—Isaiah 6:5

- **Isaiah 6:1-8—ANCHOR TEXT**
  - **Isaiah 6:5—SPECIFIC FOCUS**
    - **And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”**
- **INTRO**
  - **Christmas Season—we take lots of time and pride in decorating, beautifying, dressing up.**
    - Nothing wrong with the decorum...Problem: we do this with ourselves! Rather than realize our filth necessitates Christmas, we paint ourselves up and present our beauty.
- **POINT 1—When man meets God, everything changes (5b)**
  - **“For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”**
  - Isaiah is totally wrecked by encountering the living, holy God!
  - We must not domesticate or minimize him!
  - Gospels—demons flee; sickness flees; waters still; winds hush; death flees...when we encounter the God of the universe—EVERYTHING CHANGES!
- **POINT 2—When man meets God, we evaluate ourselves differently**
  - **“Woe is Me”—Isaiah’s first words in the book**
    - Till now, he hasn’t truly worshipped! It has been orthodox/empty but not full-hearted.
    - This is the only right response to seeing ourselves in light of God’s divine holiness.
    - Right REVERENCE for God leads to a RE-EVALUATION of ourselves!
  - **Confession—we realize we are wretched—“I am lost; I am a man of unclean lips.**
    - **Luther—until God reveals himself to us, we do not think that we are men, or rather, we think that we are gods; but when we have seen God, we then begin to feel and know what we are.**
    - Delusion—we are basically good people and have an intrinsic hope in and of ourselves
    - Reality—we are worthless and hopeless without God. When the light of God illuminates on us, we actually get to see ourselves as we really are!
      - It takes the light and life of God to reveal to us the death that is inside us!
      - **HONESTY—when we encounter God, we must AGREE with his evaluation of us!**
        - We pretend we aren’t ugly inside; we wrap ourselves with beautiful trappings but **Isaiah and God call our BLUFF—they expose us as what we really are!**
    - **Key Indicator of Grace Transformation—not when we can say all the good/right things about ourselves but when we are struck by our own sin/limitations and are humbled before both God and others!**
  - **Comparison—God alone and his holiness become our measuring stick of morality**
    - It is the appropriate response, after seeing the complete supremacy and holiness of God to look at ourselves! It is the natural default reaction.
    - **First 5 Chapters—Woe to everybody else**
      - **Isaiah sees God—“WOE IS ME”—he doesn’t reach for a cheap comparison to a foreign, pagan nation...he responds to seeing himself in light of total holiness!**
        - **Isaiah, in the face of God, does not go straight to “happy, elated”...he is wrecked! As sweet as Christmas is, it is all the more an indictment on our state outside Christ!**
    - **Wrong comparison points:**
      - **Ourselves**—“not as bad as I used to be”
      - **Others**—“not as bad as them...”
    - **Right Comparison—GOD!**
      - **Luke 5:8—Peter declares, “depart from me for I am a sinful man, Oh Lord.”**
      - **Job 42—my eyes have seen thee; therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes**
      - **Isaiah 64:6—our righteous deeds ARE AS filthy wrags.**
      - **Rev. 1:17—When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead**

- POINT 3—When man meets God, our only hope is grace (Romans 3:10-25a)
  - Read Romans 3:10-25
  - Our only hope is God's tenacious love for us, not our love for him
  - Once you've seen God, then rightly responded by evaluating yourself in light him, the only right conclusion is to need to look back to Him and return to him! However, because of our filth, we have no hope or ability to get there! We must have a loving mediator!
  - Isaiah is FULL of verses about God's tenacious love for his people; almost NONE about his people's love for him.
  - We get this backwards! Our hope isn't in how "in love" we are with God but in how committed to and in love he is with us!
    - Luther—when Satan accuses me of being a sinner, he comforts me immeasurably because Christ died for sinners!
  - God displayed his tenacious love for us most supremely in sending Christ. We did not love God. We did not WANT Jesus. We didn't go pull him down from heaven. No, the Father sent him and he came obediently to take on flesh, endure the cross and rise again! Our hope is THERE!
  - Sproul—to know that God knows everything about me and yet loves me is indeed my ultimate consolation.
  - Gospel—in the gospel, we don't behold God's glory on our own, forced to develop our own plan to deal with it. NO! We behold God's glory in the face of Christ! We aren't left to die there! Rather, we confess our sinfulness and crucify all our old, weak comparisons and attempts to work our way into right standing with God and we are resurrected as new creations, sons and daughters of God, being transformed INTO that glory from one degree to the next!
  - Christ took on himself the full punishment of everything WOEFUL in us so that we could experience the fullness of everything BLESSED in Him!