

A Glimpse of the Holy

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 6

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. — Isaiah 6:1

Spiritual disciplines prepare us to worship God. Worship brings us into God's presence. We can't expect to see God like Isaiah did. God keeps his glory hidden for our own good (Exodus 33:19-23) so that it won't destroy us. But we might catch a glimpse of his holiness.

Isaiah's response is instinctive and instructive. Seeing God surrounded by angels singing "Holy, Holy, Holy," a terrified Isaiah exclaims, "Woe to me! . . . I am . . . unclean." Isaiah feels hopeless and helpless, as good as dead and justly condemned. He makes the appropriate response: an awe-filled confession.

Isaiah offers no excuses. He knows he is guilty of sin. Then an angel purifies his lips painfully with a smoldering coal, and Isaiah is a forgiven sinner.

Isaiah's vision demands that we practice disciplined daily confession. Then, when we worship with fellow believers, we will catch a glimpse of God in his glorious grace and join the chorus singing, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

God then asks, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" With confession as our daily discipline and worship as a weekly practice, God calls us to make his holiness known. God knows people won't understand, but he still calls us to tell what he's shown us. We've caught a glimpse of his glory; how can we help but tell?

Prayer

Holy Lord, may we glimpse your glory in the lives and worship of your people. Guide us to confess our sin and proclaim your holiness. Amen.

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