

SHOW US THE FATHER

- Our Word for 2022:

Fathers

A
Atmosphere – Awareness – Anticipation

M
Mothers

I
Investment - Involvement - Interaction

L
Look Around!

Y
You

- **John 14:1-12** 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!** So why are you asking me to show him to you?"
- **Very different contrast:**
- What is God really like? Some people think the most important question of life is "Do you believe in God?" But a more important question is "What kind of God do you believe in?"
 - Some people picture God as a task master who gets great joy out of disciplining His people when they make a mistake. He has a bunch of rules in force that no one believes they can accomplish so they feel that He is always mad at us and correcting us.
 - Others picture God as a buddy. He will forgive anything no matter what you do or how you act. In the end, all go to heaven because a loving God "would never send anyone to hell"

3 Parables in Luke 15.

- **The Father's Heart:**
- **The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin**
 - Both parables highlighted the need to find the lost!
 - Both demonstrated the determination to find the lost!
 - Both expressed the joy and rejoicing when the lost are found!
- **The Prodigal**
 - The Father Has tremendous love for you, so much that he sent His only Son to die for you!
 - He regrets your rebellion but, gives you the freedom to choose to!
 - He runs to meet you when you repent and return to Him!
 - He immediately restores you! **Exuberant joy when we return!!**

- **Our quest to “Know the Father” “The Shack”**
- What do we think the #1 priority in the church should be?
 - Leviticus 20:26 You must be holy because I, the Lord, am holy. I have set you apart from all other people to be my very own. NLT
 - I Peter 1:15-16 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 16 For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." NLT

“The idea of holiness is so central to biblical teaching that it is said of God, “Holy is his name” (Luke 1:49).

The Lord’s Prayer – Hallowed be your Name!

- **How we understand the person and character of God the Father affects every aspect of our lives.**

Isaiah 6:1-7 In the year of King, Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!, Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven." NASB

The Call - The prophet in Old Testament Israel was a lonely man. He was a rugged individualist singled out by God for a painful task.

The Timing - We are told that it came to pass in the year that King Uzziah died.

Yet the final goal of every Christian is to be allowed to see what was denied to Moses. We want to see Him face-to-face. We want to bask in the radiant glory of His divine countenance.

It was the hope of every Jew, a hope instilled in the most famous and beloved benediction of Israel: **“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace” (Num. 6:24-26).** This hope, crystallized in the benediction of Israel, becomes more than a hope for the Christian—it becomes a promise.

The Encounter

- **Isaiah 6:1b-2** I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
 - Covered their face!
 - Covered their feet!

Holy, Holy, Holy

- 3 And one called out to another and said, "**Holy, Holy, Holy**, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- **Here we encounter the crux of Isaiah's vision.** It is the song of the seraphim that reveals the awesome message of this text.
- The Bible never says that God is love, love, love; or mercy, mercy, mercy; or wrath, wrath, wrath; or justice, justice, justice. It does say that He is holy, holy, holy, that the whole earth is full of His glory.

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.

¹¹ The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

The Presence

- **Isaiah 6:4** Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. NLT
- Notice what brings the presence of the Lord! Declaration of who HE IS!!! Not what we are going to do or want!

The Response

- vs. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."
- vs. 5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." NLT
- The sudden realization of ruin was linked to Isaiah's mouth. He cried, "I am a man of unclean lips." Strange. We might have expected him to say, "I am a man of unclean habits," or, "I am a man of unclean thoughts."

Why this focus on his mouth?

- **Matthew 15:10-11** Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. 11 It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." NLT
- **James 3:5-12** In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! 11 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? 12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring. NLT

In the flash of the moment Isaiah had a new and radical understanding of sin. He saw that it was pervasive, in himself and in everyone else.

- What if God appeared to us in this way today? Who could stand it?
- For the first time in his life Isaiah really understood who God was.
- **At the same instant, for the first time Isaiah really understood who Isaiah was.**

Holy God and Holy Grace

- The holy God is also a God of grace. He refused to allow His servant to continue on his belly without comfort. He took immediate steps to cleanse the man and restore his soul. He commanded one of the seraphim to jump into action.
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."
NASB

Then I heard

- Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."
- Isaiah's vision took on a new dimension. Until this point he had seen the glory of God; he had heard the song of the seraphim; he had felt the burning coal upon his lips. Now for the first time he heard the voice of God.
- That voice echoed with the piercing questions: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
- **There is a pattern here, a pattern repeated in history. God appears, people quake in terror, God forgives and heals, God sends. From brokenness to mission is the human pattern.**

Hearing and Doing

- The more faithful we are to the word of God the greater the tension in our life!
- The higher the message, the greater the difficulty walking in it!
- We can have a deep hunger to learn of the holiness of God, because we know we are not holy!

- Have you ever had an experience in which you were overcome by God's presence, in which you were "undone" by God's presence?

- Isaiah's response to God's revelation of His holiness was, "Woe is me." What is your response?

- In what ways do you need to be refined by the fire of God's holiness?

