



November 15, 2009

PART 2: ENCOUNTERING GRACE

Isaiah 6

As we prepare for Advent and the birth of Christ, the first 12 chapters of Isaiah will help us rediscover God and His great plan of salvation which He promised beforehand through the prophets.

Summary of Today's Lesson: The second lesson Isaiah teaches us is that though God judges the world in righteousness, He will also call a "remnant" to Himself who, through faith and repentance, will experience His renewing grace.

- A genuine encounter of God's Grace always leads to **brokenness** and **confession** of sins.
- A genuine encounter of God's Grace begins with **brokenness** but concludes with **pardon**.
- A genuine encounter of God's Grace leads us to **share** it others.
- Isaiah's encounter with grace is a picture of what **Jesus offers** to us.

Coal Ceremony

Where am I prayerfully searching for evidences of God's grace in my life?

ENCOUNTERING GRACE: Isaiah 6

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Getting to Know Me: (these questions are designed to get your group started and build community)

1. What are your plans for Thanksgiving? Do you have any special TG traditions in your family? If so, share them with the group.

Getting Started: (these questions are designed to “prime the pump” and get the group thinking about the teaching on Sunday)

1. What was one principle/idea/thought that stood out to you from Sunday’s sermon?
2. Some people think that the way God acts and treats His people in the OT is different than in the NT. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Do you think God was too harsh on Israel in promising to break her down before rising her up again through grace (as God promised He would do through Isaiah’s ministry)?

Digging Deeper: (these questions are “text-based” and designed to help get the group talking about the Scriptures together)

1. Read Is. 6:1-3 – The angels say that the world is destined to one day be full of the glory of God. What do you think this means? Is this good or bad (i.e. should we look forward to this day or be afraid of it)?
2. Read Is. 6:4-7 – Isaiah encounters God and it devastates him. God then uses the burning coal as a symbol of Isaiah’s forgiveness & cleansing. What parallels do you see in Isaiah’s experience of God and your own encounter with God’s grace in Jesus Christ? Can you relate to Isaiah? Why or why not?
3. Read Is. 6:8-13 – Isaiah is given a hard assignment: tell people about God only to have them not listen and turn away from you (Jewish tradition teaches that Isaiah was eventually sawed in half because of his preaching). Has God ever “sent” you to do a hard assignment? What was that like? What did that teach you about God and His grace?
4. Read John 12:36-50 – How does what Jesus teaches parallel Isaiah 6? Do you think people are more receptive to God’s truth today than Israel was during Isaiah’s day? Why or why not?

Application:

1. Is there an area of your life that needs a “burning coal” from God? Where do you need to experience grace, forgiveness and purification? Spend some time praying and asking God for a clean heart, pure conscience and a renewed walk w/ Him.