

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1949

GOD CALLS A SPOKESMAN

Golden Text—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. Isa. 6:8

Lesson Text—Isa. 6:1-13

Exposition—Isaiah's Vision of Jehovah of Hosts, 1:7.

This passage contains the record of Isaiah's call to special service. He may have prophesied before this (ch. 1-5), but from this time his ministry took on a new form and power. Many a minister today gets a new vision of God and thus his ministry gains a new meaning. Every man's great need today is a real vision of God. We do not so much need correct theories about God as a vision of God Himself. We must see the Lord if we are to be greatly used by Him and for Him. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to give us a real vision of the Lord (Ac. 7:35; 10:16-17). How can we reconcile the statement that Isaiah saw the Lord with the statement of John 1:18 that "No man hath seen God at any time." The answer is simple: no man hath seen God as He is in His invisible essence at any time. He is the "invisible, ungraspable God" (Col. 1:15). "No man hath seen nor can see" (1 Tim. 6:16).

But this invisible God has manifested Himself at various times in visible forms or similitudes (Num. 12:8). Jesus Christ was the supreme manifestation. So real and true and perfect were these manifestations that it could be said that one who saw these manifestations had seen God (Jno. 14:9). But it could be said with equal truth, "No man hath seen God at any time." Two statements that seem to flatly contradict one another may both be true. For example, if any one should ask me if I had ever seen the back of my head I would answer, "No," and it would be perfectly true. For I never have. Or I could answer, "Yes," and that would be true, for I have seen it in a mirror.

The death of Uzzah was quite likely a great shock and seeming loss to Isaiah, but just then the Lord came in with a fuller revelation of Himself. We often need to have our earthly props taken away in order to obtain the fuller revelation of the Lord Himself. He was "sitting upon a throne"—He is the real King (Isa. 66:1; Rev. 3:21; 4:2-11; Ps. 2:2-11). King Uzzah was dead, but the real King was still living. "High and lifted up" (Isa. 57:15; Ps. 46:10; 108:5) how little men in our day realize how high God is! Such a vision of God as this would change much in our modern theologies. "His train filled the temple"—there was room for nothing else. He was all in all (1 Ki. 8:10, 11; Rev. 15:8; 1 Cor. 15:28). It was an overwhelming vision of God, all else sank out of sight. Verse 3 contains central truth about the Lord whom Isaiah saw—HE IS HOLY—that is the fundamental truth about God in the Old Testament and in the New Testament (1 Jno. 1:5). This vision of God as the Holy One affected all Isaiah's preaching after. Again and again he speaks of Him throughout his prophecy as "The Holy One of Israel." We find this in the latter chapters of Isaiah which a certain superficial school of critics would have us believe were not written by Isaiah) and in this is one of the many proofs that the theories of this school are utterly untenable.

The first step in Isaiah's preparation was that he got a view of the Lord. The second step was that he got a view of himself (v. 5). There is no place to get a true picture of self except in the presence of God (Job. 42:5, 6; Dan. 10:6-8; Luke 5:8; Rev. 1:17). Face to face with the self utterly vile. The third step was cleansing from sin (v. 7). It is only when He has made us clean that we are fit to run on His errands. It was cleansing by the fire and blood—the "live coal" "from off the altar" the fire of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 3:11; Isa. 4:4), and the blood of the Lamb of God. It is this twofold cleansing each of us needs in order to be fitted for service. The coal touched his lips because it was especially the iniquity of his lips that he had confessed (v. 5) and because it was especially his lips that he was to use for God (Jer. 1:9; Dan. 10:16). Only clean lips are fit to declare God's word, and no lips are clean until touched by the fire of the Holy Spirit, and the fire of the Holy Spirit comes only from the blood-sprinkled altar (v. 6; no. 7:39) and kept in mind that the "live coal" had been taken from off the altar where "the blood" was offered.

II. Isaiah's Commission, 8:10. Jehovah having fitted Isaiah for the work by giving him a vision of Himself, and having cleansed him and his lips by blood and fire, now calls and commissions him. The message that Jehovah committed to Isaiah after this glorious vision was not a cheering one or one pleasant to deliver. He was to fully proclaim the truth, but his people in the hardness of their hearts and self-inflicted spiritual blindness would not "hear or see" or "understand" (vs. 9, 10); consequently the

whole effect of Isaiah's faithful and gracious ministry would be to harden and not to save. Note the promptness with which the man who had seen God responds to the call. As soon as the Lord says "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah replies, "Here am I; send me." How unlike many whom God is calling today, and who are answering, "Send someone else."

EXECUTOR'S AUCTION SALE

FURNITURE and HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS Both Modern and Antique

The Undersigned Auctioneers have received instructions from the Executors of the Estate of **The Late JAMES CARLILE** to sell by Public Auction at his late residence "Hill Top Farm" being the west half of Lot 8, in the Second Concession of Caledon, about 1 mile south of the Caledon Club House, 2 mile north of Ingleswood on

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GEORGETOWN

Georgetown lost one of its best known citizens on Saturday with the death in Guelph of Miss Kate D. Ryan, former clerk-treasurer for the local Hydro Commission. A life-long resident of town, she was the daughter of the late Charles Ryan and Catherine Dalton. Jimmy Ruddle, year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Ruddle, who contracted poliomyelitis a few weeks ago has been removed from Toronto Sick Children's Hospital to the convalescent hospital at Thistleton where he is making good progress towards recovery. Bill Arnold, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Arnold, has joined the staff of the local Bank of Commerce as a clerk. Bill attended high school in town last year.

A resident of Georgetown for the past nine years, Samuel Orpen died in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, last Friday following a short illness. Herald.

There are many kinds of liquids that can be mixed without danger, but if you are smart you will never try to mix alcohol with gasoline, less you try yourself on the well-known slab.

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