

Meeting God - 3

Before you begin, please pause for prayer, silent or verbalized, asking God to guide your reflection and that of the group for the following study...

Directions:

1. *Ask one person to read the following text slowly as the rest follow along.*
2. *In a couple of minutes of silent reflecting, each participant should be listening for what the Holy Spirit might be saying to them, is there a phrase, a verse, a question, or an idea that is striking you as interesting or important? Underline it.*
3. *Ask another person to read the passage again and repeat step 2.*
4. *Then begin the discussion with the questions below...*

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Background – King Uzziah of Judah (d. circa 740 BC) was the longest serving King of Judah, 52 years. His death, although he had abdicated to his son four years before due to contracting leprosy in an act of defiant disobedience to God (2 Chronicles 26), would have brought an uncertain and destabilizing period to the nation.

Exploring the Story:

1. What thoughts, words or phrases did the Holy Spirit arise in your thinking as you read the above account?
2. How does this encounter begin?
3. God’s holy presence deeply effects Isaiah.... How and why?

4. Can you think of a time when God similarly appeared to you, or someone you know?

5. How does God respond when Isaiah humbly recognizes and confesses his sinful unworthiness?

How might this be encouraging to us?

6. From this account, what might be some words Isaiah would use to describe God?

From your experience, what words would you use to describe God?

7. How might this vision of God prepare Isaiah for the tough ministry of being God's prophet to God's people?

How does this account of encountering God speak to us today about the God we serve and the leadership ministry we have been given?

8. Close by putting your thoughts arising from this text into a prayer to God.