

Title: Looking in the Right Direction

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-9

Speaker: Vic Redding

Date: June 1, 2014, Sunday Evening

Isaiah 6:1-9: *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.*

*Sometimes we get so busy that we miss the direction that we are given from the Lord.*

There is a difference in a visionary person and a person with a vision. A visionary has the idea, but puts no actions behind it. A person with a vision puts actions behind the vision. Isaiah calls Judah several things:

- a. A sick body covered in sores and wounds.
- b. A stubborn and rebellious people like an animal who would not obey their master.

Our people are like the animal who won't obey their master. We love dealing and judging others in their sin but we think in our condition that God should be humbled to have us working for him. Isaiah has six great truths here from his vision but we're going to focus on these three. We need to look at ourselves and do the same:

1. Isaiah looked *upward*. He saw the Lord
2. Isaiah looked at *himself* once he saw the Lord
3. Isaiah looked *outward* and saw the people

This vision produced three great words:

1. **Woe (verse 5):** a condition of deep suffering and regret. In the previous chapters Isaiah sees God as a judge ready to reign judgment on his people. In chapter 6, he doesn't see God as a judge. He said "I saw the Lord high and lifted up". Isaiah sees the majesty of God. He saw the holiness of God. God is so holy that the earth shook. The word woe is a picture of self-examination. It is self-examination in the presence of God. If you desire such a vision, you need to be prepared to see your own unworthiness. Even if you are saved, you are still unworthy. The Bible gives us several people: Job 42 shows Job repenting. In Luke 5 when the disciples were fishing Peter saw the Lord's power and said "depart from me for I am a sinful man". Acts 9 when the self-righteous saw Christians in prison and being stoned to death the Bible said that they trembled and were astonished. When we come in the presence of God we should weep and be filled with woe because of all the things that we could have done and didn't do. There is nothing to boast of before God other than what he has done for us. The preacher read the lyrics to the chorus of "I Can Only Imagine" by MercyMe. It says:

*Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel  
Will I dance for you Jesus or in awe of you be still  
Will I stand in your presence or to my knees will I fall  
Will I sing hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all  
I can only imagine*

2. **Lo (verse 7):** used to call attention to something. Every time God shows us our sin, he opens the path of forgiveness. Isaiah did not need the preacher's forgiveness, the deacons, his members, but he needed the mercy of his savior. Psalm 51 was a plea from David asking for mercy from God because of the sins he had committed.

In these times of trouble we have one place to turn to. One place to go. That's to God our savior. Isaiah was moved by his own spiritual condition. Not that of his neighbors or fellow church members. Think of this:

*Where could I go where could I go  
Seeking a refuge for my soul  
Needing a friend to help me in the end  
Where could I go but to the Lord*

In the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee the Publican recognized that he was so unworthy to be before the Holy God that he wouldn't even hold his head up to pray. Isaiah needed the vision of who he was. I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins [and deal with those sins], he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- 3. Go (verses 8-9):** to take a certain course and to proceed without delay. Have we ever said the words, "Lord here am I, send me"? Isaiah is no longer wrapped in his own need but the need that God needs him for. His sins are forgiven and he has looked in the right direction. He is no longer absorbed in what he wants, but what God wants. He's no longer discouraged because he knows that God is still sitting on the throne. He is no longer a spectator, but a participant. How many people have passed by you and were on their way to hell and you did nothing about it? What will we be when this church service is over? Will be just a church member or are we willing to give our lives to God to do his will? We have to yield ourselves over to him.