



**Then and Now – Holy
Sermon Discussion Questions – May 1, 2022**

Scripture Passages:

Exodus 33:18–23 (The Message) ¹⁸ Moses said, “Please. Let me see your Glory.” ¹⁹ God said, “I will make my Goodness pass right in front of you; I’ll call out the name, God, right before you. I’ll treat well whomever I want to treat well and I’ll be kind to whomever I want to be kind.” ²⁰ God continued, “But you may not see my face. No one can see me and live.” ^{21–23} God said, “Look, here is a place right beside me. Put yourself on this rock. When my Glory passes by, I’ll put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I’ve passed by. Then I’ll take my hand away and you’ll see my back. But you won’t see my face.”

Isaiah 6:1-6 (NLT) It was in the year King Uzziah died^[a] that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies!

The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

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.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”

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!”

Hebrews 12:28–29 (NIV84) ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Warm Up

This week's message will talk about God's holiness.

What are some ways that you have heard this term used? What comes to mind when you think about the word holy and why?

Discussion

- 1) This who series centers on the character of God. In this season of your life, which aspects of God's character do you connect with the most and why? (for example God's love, justice, holiness, goodness, mercy, power)
- 2) Excerpt from Pastor Tom's message:
We do not need a God like us, we need a God above us...
We want an intimidating God, because of his power.
We want a purifying God because of his holiness.
We want a rescuing God, because of his might.
We want a comforting God because he knows us.
What are some of your reactions to these statements? How have you seen this play out in someone's life?
- 3) Read Exodus 33:18-23.
What are some of the observations we can make about God's glory from these verses? As a recap, how have you seen God's glory in everyday moments this week? (If someone from the group missed last week, take a few minutes to recap the message.)
- 4) Read Isaiah 6:1-8.
How are the angels described in this passage? What do the angels say about God here and what does this teach us about his character? What else stands out to you from these verses?
- 5) Pastor Tom shares this definition of holiness:
Holy-qadosh: set apart or distinct, commanding respect
What do you think it means for something to be set apart and commanding respect? How might knowing this impact the way we relate to God?
- 6) Look back at Isaiah 6:1-8.
What interaction does Isaiah have with God? What can we learn about ourselves and about God from this interaction?
- 7) Excerpt from Pastor Tom's message:
One of the great lessons of scripture is when Isaiah comes into the presence of a holy God he is immediately overwhelmed with his own sinfulness. When we pray it should always involve a season of repentance, of forgiveness. God, forgive me and make me holy. Always, when we are brought into the presence of God, we are made conscious of our sin.
What do you think it looks like to be made aware of our sin? When God reveals your sin to you, how do you generally respond? How is this similar or different from Isaiah's response?

8) Excerpt from Pastor Tom's message:

It is after the cleansing, that Isaiah heard a voice saying, "Whom shall I send and whom will go for us (v.8)? The timing here is significant. Isaiah was not ready to hear a call from God, before his cleansing took place. The moment he was cleansed, he heard God's voice speaking for the first time.

What are some of your reactions to this? How have you seen this in your own life?

9) Toward the end of his message, Pastor Tom shared that "From brokenness to mission is the pattern for humanity."

What strikes you about this pattern? What might it look like for God to move someone from brokenness to mission?

Next Steps:

God is the Holy One, and when we meet him, our sin must go.

If it is more important to us to keep our sin than to allow God to purge us, the result is judgment. If we are willing to be purged, the end is redemptive.

Here is the assignment this week.

Lay open your life before a holy God and repent.

What are some things God might you to repent of?

Take some time to celebrate ways God has cleansed you in the past.