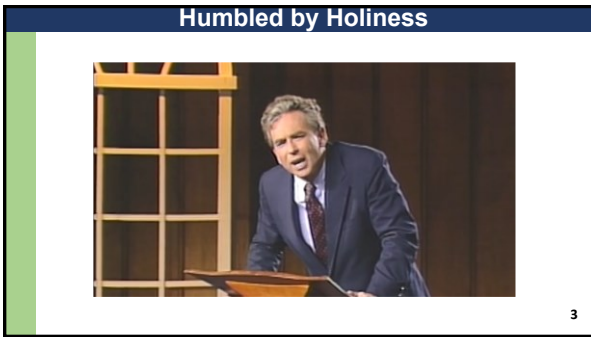


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Humbled by Holiness

Could the state of today's church be our failure to disclose and make much of God's holiness?

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Humbled by Holiness

Like Aslan in "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe", God is good, but He is not safe!

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5

Humbled by Holiness

Isaiah's Encounter With God

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6

Humbled by Holiness

- Some believe that Isaiah was perhaps the greatest prophet of ancient Israel.
- Isaiah prophesied during some very turbulent times in which the Northern Kingdom was taken captive and the Southern Kingdom was attacked and nearly conquered.
- His time also coincided with great spiritual and moral decline in both Israel and Judah.

7

7

Humbled by Holiness

- In Isaiah's day, there was a king in Judah by the name of Uzziah.
- Uzziah started out right, but got sidetracked with pride and after 52 years of serving as king, Uzziah died.
- Many in Judah had never known any king but Uzziah and at least the illusion of the security and well being of the people was tied to the king.

8

8

Humbled by Holiness

- But now their beloved king was dead and with Northern Kingdom already falling into the hands of the Assyrians the people were uneasy.
- As God's prophet, Isaiah was expected to have a message for the people that would reassure them.
- Isaiah received a message from God that would not only disturb the people of Judah, but of Isaiah himself.

9

9

Humbled by Holiness

- Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." NASB

10

10

Humbled by Holiness

- When we see "Lord" in the old testament as we do in verse #1, we are seeing the Hebrew word, "Adonai" and this word has reference to God's sovereignty.
- Their king of 52 years is gone, the nation has been attacked, and the people are in distress – so when Isaiah says he has seen the "sovereign" King of the universe how do you think that is received?
- Yes, they lost Uzziah (their sovereign king), but they now have a fresh vision of the Sovereign of the Universe!

11

11

Humbled by Holiness

- "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple."
- Isaiah sees the Sovereign, He is on His throne, His throne is lofty and exalted, and He is of such great power and importance that the train of His robe fills the temple of Heaven.
- Furthermore, there are angels attending to the Sovereign of the Universe and when the Seraphim shout "holy, holy, holy" the very foundations of the temple quake.

12

12

Humbled by Holiness

- Isaiah’s vision of God has to be among the most encouraging ones ever, and the most terrifying ever at the same time.
- In The Revelation of Jesus Christ we see some very impressive and holy revealings of God as well, but those visions are mostly visions of Jesus in judgment.
- John’s visions are terrifying, but in Isaiah’s vision he is completely undone due solely to the holiness of God – God does not even speak, He just is!

13

13

Humbled by Holiness

- Notice Isaiah’s response – he has no casual “hi, God, good to see you” moment, but quite the contrary.
- Isaiah is not at all flippant and hip as we so often see in today’s church – flip and hip would be the last thing on our minds if we really saw God.
- Isaiah, who was probably the most important prophet in Israel’s history sees now for the first time the God he has represented, worshipped, and spoken for.

14

14

Humbled by Holiness

- And for the first time in his life he will see God in a completely different light that allows him to know more of God than he ever knew before.
- “For the first time in his life Isaiah really understood who God was. At the same instant, for the first time Isaiah really understood who Isaiah was.” R.C. Sproul
- Isaiah must have thought something like, “I knew you were awesome, but now I know just how awful you are!” (play on words intended)

15

15

Humbled by Holiness

- Notice Isaiah’s response when he is given this vision of God in all of His glory on His throne.
- “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”
- This is probably the most spiritual man in Israel – he is the premier prophet of God in his day, he has delivered important messages from God, and all he can do is condemn himself!

16

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Humbled by Holiness

- To pronounce a woe upon himself was to curse himself – He now sees himself not compared to other people, but compared to God and in his own words he is “undone”. (in the KJV)
- **This is why there is pride in the church** – because we see ourselves as relatively holy compared to other people we selectively choose to measure ourselves against.
- 2nd Cor 10:12 “but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are without understanding**”. NASB

17

17

Humbled by Holiness

- Habakkuk had a similar experience – he all but demands that God answer his questions.
- He even ponders what he will say back to God when he doesn’t get the answer he wants from Him.
- Hab 2:1 **I will** stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and **I will** keep watch to see what He will speak to me, **and how I may reply when I am reproved.**

18

18

Humbled by Holiness

- In chapter 3 God answers, and Habakkuk is in a much more humble (humiliated) state.
- Hab 3:1 God, I've heard what our ancestors say about you, and I'm stopped in my tracks, down on my knees. Do among us what you did among them. Work among us as you worked among them. And as you bring judgment, as you surely must, remember mercy. The Message
- Now instead of plotting his next move, he is praying for mercy.

19

19

Humbled by Holiness

- That the world has little respect for God is seen by the way His name is treated. No honor, no reverence, and no awe before Him – just casualness at best.
- From today's texts it is more than obvious that when God is seen and heard from, things happen in us that are inhibited by our shallow thoughts and shallow worship.
- One day the "glass darkly" will become transparent and we will cry out, "holy, holy, holy".

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Humbled by Holiness

May God have mercy on us for every time we've failed to make much of Him.

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Questions

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