

North Weekly Devotional

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Song: [*Revelation Song*](#)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, hallowed be Your Name. We worship you. Holy is Your Name.

Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

Explanation:

Even after reading the text several times I didn't get it. Not the way Isaiah did. Nothing in my daily experience helps me "see" what Isaiah saw. But I think his simple description gives weight to his account of the Lord sitting on a throne so high above that only the bottom of His robe filled the temple. Whatever else he saw, Isaiah saw the King, the LORD of hosts!

He had no words to portray the presence of such indescribable transcendent majesty. God's holiness is His alone. Yet, the Lord's most holy presence aroused trembling words of confession from Isaiah: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips..."

Isaiah was an unholy man living among unholy people. In the moment, did he wonder if the perfect, holy God, would spare his sin-filled life? Isaiah may have expected a consuming fire, but the Lord's seraph simply touched Isaiah's lips with a single burning coal and told Isaiah his guilt was removed and atoned for. Such undeserved mercy, such unmerited favor!

No wonder God's question, "Whom shall I send...?" stirred an immediate response in an awestruck Isaiah, "Here am I! Send me." Serving the Holy One of Israel would require consecration of Isaiah's heart, soul, mind, and strength. Isn't it the same for us?

The Point: Isaiah's story is a picture window into the unfathomable holiness of God who desires to commune with His people. When a sinner gazes at God's holiness, his own desperate condition looks hopeless, but in God's holy presence *the unholy is made holy by the atoning work of Christ*.

Application:

Pre-K and Elementary: Like an architect is separate from the skyscraper, or a baker is separate from the cake, God is separate from us, especially in His holiness. But since He is holy, He wants us to be holy. God's commandments give us a model to follow so we can rightly focus on God and keep our lives pure. Ask the children if they can name any of the Ten Commandments. (Look up Exodus 20.)

You've probably seen in your young children a desire to please you. This desire of their hearts leads them to obey. What father or mother isn't delighted in a child who wants to please?

It's the same with God. He delights in His children who want to please Him by obeying His commands and He promises blessings, the greatest of which is His presence. How can parents encourage and reward obedience?

Middle and High School: Have you ever felt like a worm? In Marine Corps boot camp, my husband says recruits are called "maggot." Ick!! But like it or not, those are good Biblical words. Check out Job 25:6 where both creepy crawlies are mentioned.

You may feel like a worm in comparison to someone in your peer group who has everything that seems important. You know, looks, brains, money, and the things money can buy. Instead of looking around, look up—at the Most High God. He is holy, majestic, infinite, all-powerful, perfect and pure. How do you come out in that comparison? Are you squirming?

Squirming comes naturally to "fallen" creatures who are separated from their Creator in every way—physically, mentally, morally, spiritually. Like Isaiah, when you gain a sense of the crushing truth of God's holiness, you'll want to confess your sins and repent. You'll also discover this holy God specializes in changing worms from bottom feeders burrowing in the dark to His sons and daughters who walk in the light of His holy love.

Young Adults: Have you lost sight of God's holiness? Familiarity can morph into presumption when God's holiness is forgotten. Like when God seems more like a weekend running buddy or a Facebook friend—easy to have around if He doesn't expect much. After all, He accepts you as you are, because He's all about love, right?

Have you ever read a Bible description of God as love, love, love, or wise, wise, wise? Why did one seraph call out, "holy, holy, holy?" Author Jerry Bridges says the Hebrew language uses repetition for emphasis, and this threefold repetition of "holy" refers to God's *infinite transcendent majesty*. The transcendent Holy One of Israel is separate from us and beyond our comprehension.

You may think of God's holiness as His perfect moral purity. It's in that respect that He calls us to an impossible task to "be holy as He is holy!" But as Isaiah shows us, we can bow our will to His. And as Pastor Jonathan suggested last Sunday, ask Jesus what He wants to drive out of your life, like He drove out the moneychangers in the temple. Holiness begins with trust and obedience.

Adults: If there's one thing mature adults should know by now, holiness is not simply a matter of "being good" or obeying the rules. But one thing we may have forgotten is *Who* it is who calls us to be holy. Have we forgotten His holy hatred of sin? What about His power to rule and require obedience to His perfect moral law? What qualifies us to come into the presence of a holy God?

Christian heroes are falling all around us—pastors, teachers, role models. Somewhere they lost sight of God's transcendent majesty and laid aside His call to holiness. Let's not follow blindly behind them. Take the first step toward holiness by spending time in adoration and confession of

your most Holy God. Sit with Him, talk with Him, read His Word, pray earnestly. He will meet you there.

Song: [*Take Time to be Holy*](#)

Prayer: God, we are a people of unclean lips and lives, living among people who are the same. Renew in us a sense of awe, for You are holy. Jesus paid the price for our sin, so may the Holy Spirit empower us to walk in obedience and faithfulness in this generation. Holy is Your Name!