

Last Series: 4. Imparting the World Through Encounters.

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV):

"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!'"

Breakdown:

Context: This verse is part of Isaiah's vision of God's glory in the temple. Isaiah sees a vision of the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, with seraphim praising Him.

The Call of God: In this vision, Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" This represents God's call to Isaiah to be His messenger, to go and speak on His behalf.

Isaiah's Response: Isaiah's response is one of readiness and willingness. He declares, "Here am I. Send me!" This demonstrates Isaiah's readiness to respond to God's call and his willingness to be obedient to God's mission.

This verse provides a powerful example of a divine encounter leading to a **call to action**. Isaiah's encounter with God's glory and holiness compels him to respond with readiness and obedience to God's call to be a messenger. It illustrates the transformative power of encountering God, leading to a life dedicated to fulfilling His purposes.

In the context of our series on becoming a global center for divine encounters, **Isaiah 6:8** serves as a reminder **of the connection between encountering God and being sent out to impact the world**. As we encounter God and experience His presence, we are empowered to respond to His call with boldness and obedience,

ultimately contributing to the fulfillment of His kingdom purposes on a global scale.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV):

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Breakdown:

The Commission: Jesus is speaking to his disciples just before his ascension into heaven. He gives them a clear command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." This is the central command of what we commonly refer to as the Great Commission.

Making Disciples: The command is **twofold**. First, disciples are to be made. This involves not only evangelism but also the ongoing process of teaching and mentoring believers in the ways of Jesus.

Baptizing and Teaching: Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit symbolizes initiation into the Christian faith and identification with the Triune God. Teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded emphasizes the importance of discipleship and spiritual growth.

Divine Presence: Jesus assures his disciples of his continual presence with them as they carry out this mission. He promises, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This underscores the divine empowerment and support given to believers as they fulfill the Great Commission.

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- **Jerusalem:** Their immediate surroundings, where they are currently located.
- **Judea and Samaria:** Regions adjacent to Jerusalem, extending their witness outward.
- **To the Ends of the Earth:** Ultimately, their mission is global, reaching to the farthest reaches of the world.

Being Witnesses: The disciples are not merely tasked with preaching but with being witnesses. This implies living out and testifying to the truth of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection through both their words and actions.