



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"An Uninspiring Pep Talk: Isaiah's Commission"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: *Isaiah 6:9-13; Lev. 18:24-28; Is. 11:1; 1 Sam. 15:22-23; Prov. 16:18*

Most of us know Isaiah 6 because of that powerful moment when Isaiah sees the Lord high and lifted up. The seraphim cry out, *"Holy, holy, holy is Adonai-Tzva'ot! The whole earth is full of His glory"* (Isaiah 6:3, TLV). Isaiah recognizes his sin, confesses, and God graciously atones for him with a coal from the altar. Then God asks, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"* and Isaiah responds, *"Hineni—Here I am. Send me!"*

That's where most sermons stop. It's the high point, the inspiring rally cry. But the chapter doesn't end there. The rest of the passage—the actual content of Isaiah's commission—doesn't sound like a pep talk. In fact, it's sobering. God calls Isaiah not just to say yes to His glory, but to remain faithful even when people won't listen. This is what you might call *"An Uninspiring Pep Talk."* And yet, tucked inside this commission is a truth we need desperately today: our success isn't measured by people's response, but by our faithfulness to God.

1. THE HARDNESS OF HEARING

God tells Isaiah, *"Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive'"* (Is. 6:9). That's not the kind of message we want to deliver—or hear. God warns Isaiah that the people's ears will be heavy, their eyes blind, their hearts dull. Why would God commission Isaiah to preach when He already knows most won't respond? Because God is just and merciful. He reveals His word again and again, giving every opportunity for repentance. Even if the people reject it, His word goes forth.

And isn't that true in our lives? Sometimes it takes pain, failure, or loss to finally wake us up. We ignore His voice, thinking we've got it figured out. But God keeps speaking. The question is: will we humble ourselves and hear Him now, or will we wait until we're cut down to a stump?

2. THE PAIN OF PRIDE

Isaiah cries out, *"Adonai, how long?"* The Lord's answer is sobering: *"Until cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, houses without people, and the land utterly desolate"* (Isaiah 6:11). In other words, pride and arrogance must be stripped bare before the people finally wake up.

Pride blinds us. It convinces us that we see clearly when we don't. It clogs our ears to God's correction. The people of Israel thought their land, their status, and their history guaranteed God's blessing. But God reminds them: *"The land will vomit you out as it vomited out the nation before you"* (Leviticus 18:28, TLV).

That's the destructive nature of pride. It isolates us from God's presence, blinds us to His calling, and deafens us to His voice. Until pride is broken, true obedience can't grow.

3. THE HOPE OF THE HOLY SEED

Even as God declares devastation, He doesn't end with judgment. He ends with hope. *"But yet there will be a tenth portion in it, and it will again be subject to burning, like a terebinth tree or an oak whose stump remains when cut down—so the holy seed will be the stump"* (Isaiah 6:13).

Yes, everything would be reduced to almost nothing. But not nothing. A stump remains. And from that stump—a holy seed—God's purposes will go forward. This points to Messiah Yeshua, the promised One who would spring up from the root of Jesse, bringing redemption not just to Israel but to the nations. Here's the hope: God's final word is not judgment. His final word is restoration. His purposes will prevail—even when everything looks like loss.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah's commission may have been an "uninspiring pep talk," but it carried a deeper truth: God calls us to faithfulness, not popularity. Our success is not measured by numbers or applause but by obedience. So let me ask: Do we really want to wait until everything is stripped away before we finally bow to Him? Or will we humble ourselves today, confess our pride, and let Him produce His purposes in us? God's final word is hope—but will we walk in that hope now, or wait until we've been cut down to a stump?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think God sends Isaiah to preach even though He knows most people won't listen?
2. What are some ways pride can blind us from hearing God's voice?
3. Have you ever experienced God using pain or loss to get your attention? How did it change you?
4. What does the "holy seed" stump in Isaiah 6:13 teach us about God's character and promises?
5. How can we measure faithfulness in our own lives apart from outward success?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, we humble ourselves before You. Forgive us for pride that blinds and deafens us to Your voice. Thank You for Your patience, for speaking again and again even when we resist. Lord, we don't want to wait until devastation to respond. Soften our hearts today. Let us hear You, obey You, and walk faithfully in Your calling. Thank You that even when everything seems cut down, Your purposes never fail. From the holy seed comes hope, and our hope is in Yeshua. May we live to make You smile.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.