

September 7th – A Good Model for Worship

“And one cried to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.’” (Isa. 6:3)

Isaiah was an amazing prophet of God. He records his call to ministry in Isaiah 6. I think the circumstances surrounding his call would serve as a great model for Christian worship. Notice first that Isaiah was forced to look *upward*. He beheld the awesome glory of God when he “saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple” (1). Isaiah witnessed some amazing fiery angelic creatures flying around God’s throne, declaring His holiness. By looking up towards the presence of God, Isaiah learned why He the Lord is worthy of worship.

The glory of God caused Isaiah to be afraid as he looked *inward*. He said, “Woe is me for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (5). Isaiah thought that his death was certain because he realized that he was a sinful man standing in the presence of a holy God. I think Isaiah’s response was entirely appropriate. When we consider the perfection of God, we should consider the imperfection of man. Only then can we understand our need for forgiveness, which Isaiah also received: “Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged” (7).

Having looked upward and inward, Isaiah was then called to look *outward*: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (8) Without hesitation, Isaiah responded, “Here I am? Send me” (8). He was eager to take God’s message to a lost and dying world. How awesome would it be if we followed Isaiah’s example each week in worship? Each time we come to God’s house we should look upward to consider his holiness, look inward to consider our sinfulness, and look outward to consider those whom He loves and sent His Son to save.