

Sermon Notes

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The Pursuit of Holiness – Part 2

God is Holy

I. Psalm 50: 16-21 and Isaiah 6: 1-5 (NKJV)

¹⁶ *But to the wicked God says:
“What right have you to declare My statutes,
Or take My covenant in your mouth,
¹⁷ Seeing you hate instruction
And cast My words behind you?
¹⁸ When you saw a thief, you consented with him,
And have been a partaker with adulterers.
¹⁹ You give your mouth to evil,
And your tongue frames deceit.
²⁰ You sit and speak against your brother;
You slander your own mother’s son.
²¹ These things you have done, and I kept silent;
You thought that I was altogether like you;
But I will rebuke you,
And set them in order before your eyes.*

¹*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I 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; for my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”*

A. Hebrews 12: 14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*

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B. Our series is: The Pursuit of Holiness

1. Today's Title: **God is Holy**

C. Opening verse: "Pursue Peace and Holiness"

1. The KJV says "Follow."
 - a. To run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing, to run after.
 - b. To pursue in a hostile manner – such as in the Animal Planet wildlife documentaries: Hunger drives the hunt.
2. To pursue is to make it, the thing being pursued, the object of our focus and our attention, and to chase hard after it.
 - a. The way some athletes might pursue championships.
3. A dire warning: "Without holiness no one will see the Lord."

II. We opened with Isaiah 6 and Psalm 50

A. An accounting of one man's encounter with the holiness of, and its subsequent effect, on him (Isaiah 6).

B. A reprimand from God to a people who had made the fatal error of falling into the trap of assuming that God was like them (Psalm 50).

1. This had an effect of their manner of living and their choices.
2. Psalm 50 serves as a reminder – or warning – of what happens when God is viewed as common.
3. A twisted view of God results in twisted decisions and choices:
 - i. They hated God's instructions.
 - ii. They consented with thieves and adulterers.
 - iii. They gave their mouths to evil and framing deceit.
 - iv. They slander their brother.

C. Isaiah encounters God for who he is – Holy – and it has a tremendous bearing on his decisions and life choices. Another group sees God like them and it determines their life choices, also.

1. Isaiah's encounter represents the outworking of a proper view of God and it leads to closer intimacy with Him, yet the other leads to sinful behavior. Seeing God as common is a fatal error. Seeing God as Holy is a life-giving reality.

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D. Holiness: set apart, sacred.

1. **God is Holy: not like anything else anywhere ever, above everything else always, and comparable to no one else at all.**
2. “Holiness is the unique aspect of God’s nature that is without parallel anywhere else in the universe” – Derek Prince.
3. **“Holy . . . calls attention to that sense in which He is different or apart from us, but it also calls attention to His absolute purity” – R.C. Sproul.**

E. The first and greatest step in the pursuit of Holiness is in the pursuit of a greater revelation of God is Holy!

1. I believe the biggest challenge facing western civilization, especially the western church, is how we see God.
2. Making God in our image and after our likeness is having devastating repercussions.
3. **The church’s uniqueness is not found in how attractive we can be to the world, but in how set apart we are from it.**
 - i. **2 Corinthians 6: 17 (KJV): *“¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”***
 - ii. **1 John 2: 15-16 (KJV): *“¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”***
 - iii. Frances Chan said the American church is the only religious group that tries to gain new adherents with carnival-like events, and it’s not even biblical. Muslims don’t do it, Hindus don’t do it. Foreign Christians are stunned when they come over.

III. Invitation

- A. **I sense strongly God is inviting us into an exploration of His Holiness in our pursuit of Holiness.**

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1. The process cannot be rushed. It is a truth that must be unpacked slowly, carefully, like one would a rare or expensive object.
2. Truth cannot be determined; it must be discovered.

B. I ask myself why I tackle these topics?

1. **R.C. Sproul: “God’s Holiness is the most foreign concept for a man or woman to grasp, and without the aid of God’s spirit, without a revelation of it, it is impossible to comprehend.”**
2. Yet, it is so important, that without it we cannot see God.

C. A Big mistake we all make:

1. Viewing scripture through our eyes, especially difficult passages.
2. We have to make every attempt to see scripture through God’s eyes.
3. Noah’s Ark: ‘I just don’t see how a loving God could or would do that’ (our view of Love is askew).
 - a. If the story is remotely true – I believe it is – then you were on that boat. You are descendants of Noah and his sons.
 - b. Noah and his sons were saved; therefore, you as their descendants were also saved.

IV. Isaiah 6: 1-5 (NKJV)

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” ⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵So I 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; for my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

A. Who was Isaiah?

1. He was the cousin of King Uzziah.
2. He was a Holy man, a man of integrity and regarded as exceptional in character and conduct.

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B. “Woe is me for I am undone.”

1. Pronouncing that amounts to a curse upon himself.
2. Not a mere expression.
3. It is a desperate cry of grief and despair.
4. This holy man encountered Holiness and it wrecked him.

C. ” I am undone.”

D. Nothing is clean in the presence of ultimate purity!

1. Isaiah discovered this.
2. In the presence of perfect Holiness nothing can be Holy.
3. **1 Peter 1: 13-23 (NKJV)**

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.