

Is God Like Superman?

Isaiah 6:1-7

Overview

God is Holy (vv. 1-3)

- You can say you love God but you don't love his holiness; God's essence is holy.
 - To speak of God's holiness is to speak of that which He is
- To be holy means God is set apart *from* sin and set apart *to* His glory
 - God is infinitely separated from sin and utterly consecrated to the proclamation of and pleasure in His glory everywhere.
- Only once in Scripture is an attribute of God raised to the third degree – “Holy, holy, holy”
 - This tells us every attribute of God is “Holy”
 - Holy Love
 - Holy Justice
 - Holy Mercy, etc.

We are not Holy (vv. 4-5)

- In the presence of God Isaiah is morally undone
 - Isaiah had a new and radical understanding of sin
 - He saw that was it pervasive in himself and everyone else

Christ Forgives (vv. 6-7)

- The burning coal represents a sacrifice for sin
- Every sin is a transgression against God that must be paid for; we are in debt
 - This debt is either paid by us
 - Or it is paid by a sacrificial substitute
 - Isaiah 53:4-6 tell us there is a substitute
 - John 12:41 tells us Isaiah is beholding the glory of Jesus
 - Jesus is the sacrificial substitute
 - Jesus was high and exalted upon the throne, but climbed down from the throne that he might be high and exalted upon the cross
- In our sin, we can't see God in his holiness (Is. 6:4-6); in our sin, we don't want to see God in his humility (Is. 53:2-3)
- Notice that Isaiah was nothing but a “passive participant” in the forgiveness of his sin; it was accomplished by divine action
- Once we understand this forgiveness our response must be the same as that of Isaiah: “Here I am! Send me.”
 - This “going” could be geographically, relationally, financially, etc.

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Has anyone been forgiven a very large debt? What was that like?*

1. Read Isaiah 6:1-7. What attributes of God do you see in this passage?
2. In verse 3 Isaiah says the Lord is “holy, holy, holy.” This is the only place in Scripture that an attribute of God is elevated to the third degree. What does this tell us about the importance of God's holiness?

3. Do you think it's important to have at the center of our heart's affection the holiness of God? Why or why not?
4. Verse 3 connects God's holiness to his glory. Why is it important to understand that God's holiness is separation from sin *and* consecration to His glory?
5. In verses 4-5 what effect does seeing God in his holiness have upon Isaiah? Why is this the case? How can we better grasp God's holiness?
6. What do verses 6-7 tell us about the depth of and remedy for our sin? How does this increase our appreciation for Christ?
7. Read John 12:36b-43 and Isaiah 52:13-53:6. What do these verses tell us about the person and work of Jesus? How does this encourage a life worthy of the gospel?
8. Read Isaiah 8-9. What do you notice about Isaiah's response? In what area of your life does this challenge you?

Accountability Question: *What area of your life are you holding on to that opposes the holiness of God? OR Where has God's holiness been an encouragement to you?*