**CAPTIVATED BY GREATNESS**

**ISAIAH 6:1-8**

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for 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!” 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” 8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

**Have you ever really been in the presence of greatness?**

When I was a kid, I always wanted to meet **Michael Jordan.**

Folks say when you meet someone famous like that

You feel a mixture of **fascination and fright**;

You are simultaneously attracted and repelled.

You want to meet them, but you are frightened by the idea of them ignoring you.

German philosopher **Rudolf Otto** said...

That’s how you know you are worshipping something

You have a mixture of **fascination** and **fright**!

**The idea of being frightening by god...**

It is considered to be old-fashioned today—or unmodern

But the truth remains:

When you’re in the presence of human greatness you feel fear.

**How much more with god?**

Today - We talk like we want **a God who is a buddy...**

Someone who is our **COPILOT OR HOMEBOY**

Someone who warms us when we are cold.

And Someone who cools you when you’re hot.

It is certainly true...

Jesus is **intimate with you**

Jesus is a **friend that sticks closer** than a brother...

 But He is also MORE than that...

***He is holy***.

When the **angels see Him,** they cover their faces;

**Prophets** fall down as dead men in worship to Him

**That is what happened here in Isaiah 6...**

 The prophet sees the awesomeness of God’s Holiness & Greatness

 **His heart becomes captivated by it.**

He is life is forever changed because of his encounter in chapter 6.

 Friend – I am convinced that is what We need today...

**We need some people who have been captivated by the Greatness of God.**

 People who recognize His Holiness

 People who recognize His Power

 People who recognize His Glory

 People who live in fascination of His Word

 Tragically, most of us have grown bored with God/Jesus

 **Your kinda like my 5-month old the other day**

**We got in some Christmas presents from some my family we didn’t get to see this year.**

He would **open** up the present.

He would **play** with it for a couple of minutes.

He would **start crying in boredom.**

**If you were honest – most in this room would say the same thing.**

 We have been in church long enough

 We have heard the gospel so often

 We have grown bored & indifferent toward it.

**Now – We’re looking for something else to keep to our attention.**

**Friend – I’m here to tell you today...**

 It is time to wake up.

 It is time to stop hitting the snooze button

It is time for you to put your big-boy pants on & go to work for Jesus.

It is time for us to be captivated by the greatness of God.

 But what does that look like?

 Isaiah shows us a couple of things...

**GOD’S GREATNESS EXPOSES OUR LIVES**

*5 And I said: “****Woe is me! For I am lost; for 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!”*

The NASB gets it better – *“I am ruined”*

 **For Isaiah... Seeing God’s greatness jacked up his life.**

 He thought he was doing pretty good

 But God showed Him - How unclean he really was.

That’s what happens when you become CAPTIVATED BY GREATNESS...

 **He shows you – Your goodness isn’t all that good.**

The truth is...**The sign that you don’t know God at all is you feel pretty good about yourself.**

But isn’t that what we teach ourselves

You need to feel good about yourself.

You need to find your spiritual center

 Friend – don’t get me wrong...

 **I’m all for people trying to improve their lives**

But improvement doesn’t come through:

feeling good about yourself or

Finding your spiritual niche

**No – Improvement comes only ONE WAY**

Being CAPTIVATED by the HOLINESS/GREATNESS of God.

 See – when you encounter God...

 **Your good feelings & warm fuzzies about yourself**

 They just turn to dust.

 God show us...

 Our good deeds are like filthy rags

 Our best day makes God sick to His stomach

  **Your strengths turn to weaknesses**

 Isaiah confessed:

 ***I am a man of unclean lips,***

 Isaiah was a prophet

 He used his lips to serve God.

 But God showed him.

 Even his best deeds done were unclean

 **God completely rearranges your life.**

 In v.9 – God gives Isaiah a confidence

 **To go & speak to a people who won’t listen**

 I’ve often thought about Isaiah’s calling...

 **Who would sign up for that?**

To spend your whole life doing something that people will hate for you doing it.

**Isaiah will never get any notoriety for it**

He will never get invited to the big conferences.

He will never get any positive feedback on his preaching

The only thing he will get is 5-seconds of fame when they sawed him in two.

 **He died it because God captivated His heart.**

 He knew that God approved of his message

 He knew that God would stand by His side

God had become the glue that was holding his life together!

**Friend – Let me ask you an honest question...**

***What is the glue that’s holding your life together?***

*Your bank account?*

*Your business savviness?*

 *Your athletic ability?*

*Your good looks?*

*Your family?*

George Whitefield, whose preaching spawned the Great Awakening,

**Only had two major points in his sermons**

(all preachers are like that).

**First, repent of your SINS.**

Makes sense. Of course.

**But second, repent of your STRENGTHS,**

Those things you use as a source of false-confidence that you don’t really need God.

Those things you use to cover up your sins

Friend – God doesn’t need CAPABLE people to revive our church & community.

 **He needs CAPTIVATED people**

People, who like Isaiah, have been touched by the burning coal in God’s hand.

**Are you willing to captivated by God’s greatness?**

**COMMUNION**

 Reserved for Believers

 Prepare your hearts – Eating & Drinking Judgment

 Confess Sins

Mike Prays for BREAD

**1 Corinthians 11:23–24 *—*** *23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,* ***“This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”***

Virgil Prays for CUP

**1 Corinthians 11:25–26 —** 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”** 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.