

Where Love Can Lead

International Bible Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-6

Sunday, June 2, 2013

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“And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged” (Isaiah 6:7—KJV).

“He touched my lips with the burning coal and said, ‘This has touched your lips, and now your guilt is gone, and your sins are forgiven’” (Isaiah 6:7—GNB).

“The seraph touched my mouth with the live coal and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out’” (Isaiah 6:7—NRSV).

Isaiah did not truly realize how offensive his sins were to God and to himself until he learned more about the true nature and moral character of God. He saw how the mere hem of God’s robe could fill the temple, and then he learned that the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth. He heard the seraphs declare the true moral character of God when they proclaimed about God repeatedly, “Holy, holy, holy.” When Isaiah compared and contrasted the perfect moral purity of God with the way he and God’s people lived and talked, he confessed in alarm, “Woe is me! I am lost!” Isaiah did not need to hear the just judgment of God pronounced from His throne. When he saw the almighty power and absolute goodness of God, “the King, the LORD of hosts,” his heart and mind passed judgment and condemned him. However, instead of God condemning him, the LORD sent a seraph to cleanse his lips and remove his guilt and sin.

When God recreated Isaiah morally and spiritually, Isaiah experienced the love and forgiveness of our gracious God; then, he no longer condemned himself. Without demanding anything from Isaiah, the Lord freely gave him cleansing and forgiveness. Then, God asked a simple question that Isaiah could have ignored, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Out of the depths of his renewed heart and mind, Isaiah immediately spoke up with clean lips, “Here I am; send me!” He expressed his love and appreciation to God by his immediate willingness to serve Him.

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Thinking Further

1. Where was Isaiah when he received his call and vision from God? What might this reveal to us about the importance of regular worship in God's house?

2. Are you as ready as the angels were in Isaiah's vision to serve the Lord? Are you as willing to serve God as Isaiah became after the angel cleansed his lips?

3. If you are not eager, ready, and willing to serve God in whatever God asks of you, what do you need to make you ready and willing?

4. How can your sins be removed and blotted out today? Do you really want to live free from the practice of any sins?

5. Read Isaiah 6:8 again, why do you think God used the plural "us," in "who will go for us"?