



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Send Me, Lord!

Sub-Topic: What did God commission you to do?

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-13

In today's world God is not asking most of us to embark on a journey fraught with perils. Certainly, some may face challenges as they minister overseas or in tough areas. The majority, however, will be left to wrestle with their own inadequacies. Like some of the prophets of old. They will make excuses. Some will run from their calling. Others will take time to fully embrace it. Fear of failure and recognition of personal shortcomings will stop some dead in their tracks before they ever fully commit to be an emissary for the Lord. The bold will rise to the challenge. They will proclaim, "**Send me!**" And the Lord will reach down and meet their needs, equipping them for ministry just as He equipped the prophet Isaiah. **Today we must choose whether we will abandon the call out of fear and deficiency or rise to the challenge in boldness and faith.** God is looking for individuals to represent His kingdom.

Isaiah's vision was his call to be God's messenger to his people. He was given a difficult mission. Isaiah had to tell people who believed they were blessed by God that God was going to destroy them instead because of their disobedience. Isaiah's lofty view of God gives us a sense of God's greatness, mystery, and power. **Isaiah's example of recognizing his sinfulness before God encourages us to confess our sin.** His picture of forgiveness reminds us that we, too, are forgiven. When we recognize how great our God is, how sinful we are, and the extent of His forgiveness, we receive power to do His work. In response he submitted himself entirely to God's service. No matter how difficult his task would be, he said, "*Here am I; send me.*" The painful cleansing process was necessary before Isaiah could fulfill the task to which God was calling him. Before we accept God's call to speak for Him to those around us, we must be cleansed as Isaiah was. **Letting God purify us may be painful, but we must be purified so that we can truly represent God, who is pure and holy.**

The call of the Lord can come to us at unexpected times. Isaiah received his calling during a time of sorrow when the good king Uzziah had died. Why did God send Isaiah if he knew the people wouldn't listen? Although the nation itself would not repent and would reap judgment, some individuals would listen. Even in judgment God is merciful. We can gain encouragement from God's promise to preserve His people. If we are faithful to Him we can be sure of His mercy. **When will we listen to God?** Must we, like Judah, go through calamities before we will listen to God's words? Consider what God may be telling you, and obey Him before time runs out.

Moreover, in Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus left the disciples with those last words of instruction. Whereas in previous missions Jesus had sent his disciples only to the Jews (Matthew 10:5-6), their mission from now on would be worldwide. Jesus is Lord of the earth, and He died for the sins of people from all nations. We are to go—whether it is next door or to another—country—and make disciples. It is not an option, but a command to all who call Jesus "Lord." We are not all of the 5-fold ministry, but we have all received gifts that we can use in helping to fulfill the Great Commission. As we obey, we have comfort in the knowledge that Jesus is always with us. The Great Commission is a declaration of God's heart. In 1 Timothy, we are told that God wants all mankind "to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). It's Jesus' loving desire to reconcile humanity to Himself, and the Great Commission plays an integral role in His plan.

We have the choice of how we will respond. If we give in to the spirit of conviction, we will feel undone in the presence of God. However, some will stop at this point. Their sin and iniquity will overwhelm them. They will not accept the coal from the altar, repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, and speak in other tongues. Some, however, will humbly receive the plan of salvation. They will boldly proclaim, "**Send me!**" while others walk away from the presence of God.

Today God desires to give us a greater vision of Himself. He wants us to see His glory. He wants us to recognize our weakness so we might be made strong in Him. He wants us to have a bold humility that says, "**Yes, I have sinned, but I will receive cleansing and accept my calling.**"

What did God commission you to do?