

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS**  
**Commentary by Michael Sigler**  
**June 2, 2013**

**When We See God as He Is**

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

**Key verse:** “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple” (Isaiah 6:1).

Joshua Harris describes meeting a girl who had just learned that the stars were not, literally, “tiny specks of light over her head.” When she told Joshua that she had only recently learned that stars in the night sky are actually far, far away, he asked her what she meant. She said, “You know, they’re not just right up there. They’re not just tiny dots. They’re really far away.”

“What did you think they were before?” Joshua asked.

“I thought they were, you know, just right up above us.”

Harris comments on why it is important to know and understand God as he really is: “I’d say for the same reason that it’s worth knowing that stars are not tiny pinpricks of light just above our heads. When we know the truth about God, it fills us with wonder. If we fail to understand his true character, we’ll never be amazed by him. We’ll never feel small as we stare up at him. We’ll never worship him as we ought. We’ll never run to him for refuge or realize the great love he’s shown in the measureless distance he bridged to rescue us” (from *Dug Down Deep* by Joshua Harris).

In Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah has an encounter with the living God. Isaiah’s experience demonstrates four life-changing things that happen when we really see God as he is:

**1. When we really see God as he is, we are struck by God’s majesty and holiness.**

This was Isaiah’s experience: “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory’” (vv. 1-3).

When we really see God as he is, we are struck by God’s majesty and holiness.

**2. When we really see God as he is, we are struck by our own insignificance and sinfulness.**

This was Isaiah's response to seeing God in all of God's majesty and holiness: "And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'" (v. 5).

When we really see God as he is, we are struck by our own insignificance and sinfulness.

**3. When we really see God as he is, God offers us his forgiveness and grace.**

God is majestic and holy. We are not. But the good news is, God is also forgiving and full of grace and love!

This is how God responded to Isaiah's humble expression of insignificance and sinfulness: "Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out'" (vv. 6-7).

When we really see God as he is, God offers us his forgiveness and grace.

**4. When we really see God as he is, and we receive God's forgiveness and grace, then—out of gratitude and love—we are willing to go and serve God.**

This is how Isaiah responded to God's forgiveness and grace: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" (v. 8).

It is important to know, understand, and experience God as he really is. When we do, then we are struck by God's majesty and holiness; we are struck by our own insignificance and sinfulness; God offers us his forgiveness and grace; and, out of gratitude and love, we are willing to go and serve God.

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