

WHEN THE BURRITO HAS DRIPPED ON YOUR SHIRT

A Sermon for the New Year – Topic: Security



Passage: Isaiah 6:1-6 - In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ²Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The [a]whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴And the [b]foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the [c]temple was filling with smoke. ⁵Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

SUMMARY: This past Sunday, Rick delivered a sermon for the New Year, on the topic of Security, from the Book of Isaiah. He explained that all the uncertainty of the year ahead can be very unsettling; but despite that, we can have a solid sense of security. He explained that we need to see the Lord's holiness and His grace.

He started with God's holiness and first explained how it was total, unadulterated holiness.

There are two aspects of holiness he covered – first, the separation it means. God is in a class of His own. There is no one to compete with. Then, it also indicates perfection. And God's perfection is essential.

Then Rick went over God's grace. In the Isaiah passage, seeing God's glory was a game-changer for Isaiah. He realized his own sin in a new and overwhelming way. So God took care of it: He burned Isaiah's unclean lips with a coal. There was nothing Isaiah could do about it: he was guilty. God takes our sin – all of it – and burns it away like Isaiah's lips' uncleanness. So after we get close enough to God to sense His immense, stunning perfection, and realize our own terrible state, we should become acutely aware of the grace that dealt with that terrible state once and for all.

Rick then gave us three ways to gain security in the face of an uncertain future:

1. Make God's character the foundation of your security.
2. Let go of the *illusion* of control. We can control precious little of our uncertain futures.
3. Live in *Grace!*

SUPPORTIVE PASSAGES:

We Need to See the Lord's Holiness - Isaiah 5:5-6 - "So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground. ⁶"I will lay it waste; It will not be pruned or hoed, But briars and thorns will come up. I will also charge the clouds to rain no rain on it." **Isaiah 5:30** - And it will growl over it in that day like the roaring of the sea. If one looks to the land, behold, there is darkness and distress; Even the light is darkened by its clouds. **Isaiah 40:25-26** - **"To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?"** says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the ^[a]strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. **1 Chronicles 17:20** - O LORD, **there is none like You**, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. **Isaiah 46:9-10** - "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and **there is no one like Me**, ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; **1 John 1:5** - This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **Psalms 18:30** - As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

We Need to See the Lord's Grace - Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. **Colossians 2:13** - When you

were dead [a]in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions...