

ISAIAH'S CALL TO THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

INTRO: Because he foretold more about Jesus Christ than any other Old Testament prophet, Isaiah has been called "the Messianic prophet." Isaiah's call to the prophetic ministry came about 740 B.C. His ministry lasted for a period of about 40 years. Chapter 6 records his call, and his response.

- I. BEFORE HE WAS QUALIFIED TO SPEAK FOR GOD, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIS OWN SINS TO BE CLEANSED, 5-6.
- II. IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO KNOW SOMETHING OF THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK HE WAS BEING GIVEN, 9-12.

Luke 14:27-33, Whoever does not bear his cross & come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first & count the cost whether he has enough to finish it--lest, after he has laid the foundation, & is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build & was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first & consider whether he is able with 10,000 to meet him who comes against him with 20,000? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

A. Most people he tried to teach would refuse his help.

This passage is quoted at least 6 times in the N.T, 9-10

B. With all his best efforts the prophet would not be able to prevent his nation from going into exile, 11-12.

- III. LEST HE LOSE HEART, HE MUST ALSO NOTE THAT SOME WOULD OBEY & BENEFIT FROM THE TRUTH HE WAS ABOUT TO PREACH, vs. 13.

- IV. FOREWARNED THAT HIS MESSAGE WOULD NOT BE POPULAR BUT THAT IT WAS THE ONLY HOPE FOR HIS GENERATION, HE WENT FORTH TO PREACH, vs 8.
- V. THE PROPHET'S MESSAGE. The prophet's message naturally divides itself into 3 parts, mixed & mingled throughout the book.
- A. He spoke of the sins of Judah, Israel, & the surrounding nations & of the inevitable consequences of those sins.
 - B. He foretold that after the sins of Israel & Judah resulted in the Assyrian & Babylonian captivities, God would raise up a righteous remnant who would return & re-people the promised land.
 - C. And finally, thru that righteous remnant, the Christ or Messiah would come & initiate a spiritual restoration in which God's chosen nation would expand to include people from all races, tribes, peoples & tongues.
- VI. BEAUTIFUL FEET. In one of the Messianic sections, the prophet alludes to the golden era when the soul-saving gospel of Christ would be preached to all nations.

Isa 52:7, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Paul quotes that verse in 10:14 with application to those who spread the good news of salvation thru Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: J.W. Hicks. Your feet, too, can be beautiful.

- (1) First, be sure that your own sins have been washed away by the precious blood of Jesus, Acts 22:16.
- (2) Then you, too, can be used by God to share His message with others.

(3) Be aware that some will ignore you and be indifferent. Others may be resentful and intolerant. But the true gospel in its fullness & simplicity is the only hope we have, & some will respond in faith & obedience, & to these, your feet will be beautiful indeed.

Isa 1:18-20, "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing & obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse & rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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