



day five: re-request

Isaiah 6:8a

"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

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"You are Holy" written & performed by Jason and Stephanie Osario

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

*You are high above
Reigning Strong
Seated in glory
The throne is yours alone
Your presence fills this place
Your mercy overflows
Help us see you now
Greater than we've ever known*

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 6:8a

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

MOVEMENT ONE

Isaiah has a supernatural, transcendent and sacred experience with the Holy God of all creation. He has responded, as many of us would, with feelings of inadequacy in the face of a pure and sovereign God. But God has cleansed him, taken away his guilt and atoned for his sin.

“Who will go for us?”

Now the triune God asks the question that would change Isaiah’s life forever. This is a fork- in-the-road moment in which he is given a choice: whether to continue life the way he had lived prior, or to take on a holy calling to serve the God of his forefathers.

“Who will go for us?”

God asks the question, showing simultaneously that He has a task for Isaiah and that Isaiah could say “No”. God doesn’t force us to take the job, he offers and allows us the freewill opportunity to turn it down.

“Who will go for us?”

There is a right and wrong choice, but it lies in our hands. God has a job that has a vacancy and invites Isaiah to fill the role. But it won’t be easy, or simple. This calling will envelop the whole of Isaiah’s life, and will exact a high price.

“Who will go for us?”

He will be misunderstood, disliked and uncomfortable in his own time. This holy vocation will take him to difficult places and moments that test his trust in God.

“Who will go for us?”

But He will also be in the center of God’s will. He will play a pivotal role in leading and calling his people back into right relationship with God. His life will take on eternal significance. This is what Isaiah was made for. So, the question rings in his ears:

“Who will go for us?”

God is asking him to make a decision without having all the answers, puzzle pieces or even resources to accomplish the task. Isaiah is being asked to serve, and God wants his answer before he even gets an explanation as to what the task will entail. God gives him just enough information to make the decision.

“Who will go for us?”

Five words. The first three are the task, and the second two words give the information needed to make the choice. God says his calling will be to go “FOR US”. In other words, the triune God is telling Isaiah that if he agrees, he will be going on God’s behalf, to represent God. To go WITH God.

“Who will go for us?”

(Space)

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

MOVEMENT TWO

In the New Testament we learn that when God sends people on his behalf, He goes with them. As Jesus said in His Great Commission:

**“... go and make disciples of all nations... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age...”
(Matthew 28:18–20)**

God doesn't call us to go alone, but to go WITH Him. A calling from God is always God asking us to work in tandem with Him. To partner with Him in reconciling His creation back to Himself.

“I am with you always...”

Sometimes we sense a call of God to go and do something for Him. We feel it in our bones. It is unshakable. But we hesitate, we ruminate, we procrastinate. We do this because we're scared; uncertain of what it will mean, and what it will require of us. God calls on purpose, to purpose, and for a purpose.

“I am with you always...”

He called Levi while he sat at his tax collector booth, Peter from the boat, Mary Magdalene from a checkered past. He didn't give them all the details they may have wanted, but they said yes because of the one who was asking.

"I am with you always..."

Isaiah felt unworthy, and so do we. But God doesn't make mistakes in who He calls, and does so at exactly the right time. God sees the whole person; good, bad and ugly, and He calls us to serve.

"I am with you always..."

To wonder whether we are worthy is the wrong question. It's a waste of time, and a suggestion that God might have gotten it wrong. Is it possible that, like Levi, Peter, Mary—like Isaiah—God can use your broken parts to bring healing to others even as he continues to heal you?

"I am with you always..."

So then, push aside your fears, your sense of being unworthy, and listen. Listen to what God is saying to you. To what God is saying over you. To what God wants to say to the world through you.

"I am with you always..."

What is God calling you to?

(Space)

**God,
Your Holy and Living Word issues a call,
To share Your Good News with the World,
To make disciples of all nations,
To love The Least The Last
And the Lost.
Oh God, may you help us to respond like Isaiah.
Help us to trust you,
As He did,
Even when we don't have all the answers. Give us
courage,
And Give us a burden.
In Jesus Name,
Amen.**

MOVEMENT THREE

Isaiah hears the call of God to go. Before He responded, he didn't know who, what, when, where, why, or how. But he knew it was God who was calling, that God would go with him, and that was enough.

**Will we follow the call of God?
Or will we go our own way?**

We're all given the choice to do our own will, or to do God's will. And that is the choice before Isaiah when he gets the request from God to serve. Will he go his own way, or follow the Way of God?

**Will we follow the call of God?
Or will we go our own way?**

In the context of this passage, his decision is not one of whether to live a life of sin or righteousness. Isaiah at this point is already a follower of God. This is a call to align oneself with the divine plan God has, or to try to forge one's own path. Isaiah was made for more than mediocre faith.

**Will we follow the call of God?
Or will we go our own way?**

We were made for more than mediocre religion. For more than empty faith. For more than an easy life. We were made for the fullness of living in God's call for our lives.

**Will we follow the call of God?
Or will we go our own way?**

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MOVEMENT FOUR

One must then ask what the call to go means when God says, "Who will go for us?". For all believers, it involves practicing the Way of Jesus. In the words of the prophet Micah:

"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8).

Or in the words of James:

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in

their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27).

Or in the words of the master, Jesus:

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 15:35).

The call to go is the call to a dangerous adventure. The invitation to a true and better way of life. The chance to emulate the audacious and wonderful life that Jesus modelled for us.

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

*We come undone
On knees I bend
Your voice rings out
Whom shall I send?
My faith in you
All fear now flees
Here I am
Lord, send me*

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

CLOSING PRAYER

**God of Isaiah,
We hear you calling us
To those that don't yet know you.
We hear you calling us
To tell them who you are.
We confess our faults, fears and failures,
And ask that you would help us to
Be what we can't be
Say what we can't say
And do what we can't do.
So that all may hear and know
The Love of the Father, Son and Spirit.
Amen.**

