**21 – Willingness of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 4:18-22*

**Eagerness of Isaiah**

* His willingness is seen in his eagerness (**cf. Isaiah 8:6**).
  + His reply was immediately after the request from the Lord. No hesitation.
  + It helps to contrast Isaiah with others to understand how noble this reaction was 🡪
* ***Jonah – “Here am I, I’m not going”*** – **Jonah 1:1-3**
  + Reaction showed a lack of faith in God, and love for souls – **Jonah 4:1-5** (did not wish for Nineveh to repent).
* ***Moses – “Here am I, send someone else”*** – **Exodus 3:10; 4:13**
  + He did not show confidence in God to send him to do His will.
  + He tried to find excuses why he shouldn’t be the one.
* **Isaiah volunteered himself, and was willing and eager to do God’s bidding.**

**Why was Isaiah so willing?**

* Majesty/Glory of God – **(v. 1-4)**
  + Contrasted with Uzziah (**cf. 2 Chronicles 26:16-21** – In his pride He did not consider God as he should – as holy.)
    - He defiled the temple by treating it as a common place.
    - Not even he – the king – had the right. Only those consecrated to do so – the priests.
  + What Isaiah saw:
    - Transcendence of the Lord **(v. 1)** – high and lifted up.
    - Seraphim, the Lord’s servants **(v. 2).**
      * Covered face (**cf. 5b** – too holy to look upon).
      * Covered feet (feet of service not worthy to be exposed before holy God).
    - Cry of holiness **(v. 3** – not just holy, but holy holy holy.)
    - Shaken posts and filled with smoke **(v. 4** – presence of God)
  + God has always sent men to do His work on earth. We should be willing because of the holiness of the one who sends us (**cf. Matthew 28:19-20**).
    - **Matthew 4:18-22** – Peter, Andrew, James, and John called to be fishers of men.
      * Peter and Andrew – **cf. John 1:40-41** (Recognized Jesus was messiah.)
      * James and John – **cf. Luke 5:5-11** (Saw a miracle performed by Jesus).
* Sinfulness of Man – **(v. 5)**
  + **Romans 10:14-15** – Israel is in sin and needs salvation. But they need a preacher!
  + **Romans 3:23** – all have sinned (**cf. 6:23** – wages are death)
  + If people are headed to hell we need to have a love for them to turn them away.
  + **Romans 5:6-11** – Need to have compassion and love like God.
* Forgiveness from God – (**v. 6-7)**
  + **Acts 9:9, 19-20** – Saul was joyed by his salvation and wanted others to reach the same hope!
  + **Ephesians 3:8-9** – He was appointed to preach, but eager and willing because he loved men.

Preaching is certainly important and we are expected to make disciples, but we are also expected to do other things. Do we have the willingness like Isaiah? 🡪

* **Holiness** – **Ephesians 4:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Matthew 5:13-15; James 4:4** – We are supposed to be holy in an unholy world. We are salt and light, but some do not willingly accept this call.
* **Evangelism** – **Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:4** – Evangelism is not a work of a preacher. It is the work of the church.
  + Preacher edifies church (although as a Christian should evangelize) – **Ephesians 4:11-12**
* **Service in the church** – **Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13** – are we willingly and actively doing what we are able to do?

Our attitude toward what God wills for us to do should reflect that of Isaiah’s. We should not hesitate, but should be eagerly willing to do what God wants us to do!