

Sunday 10th Feb 2019 'They left everything and followed Jesus'
Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Cor 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

4 awesome passages today...beautiful, inspiring words of scripture

Isaiah

Very accurate, specific timing... The year King Uzziah died i.e. 740BC

He had been king for 52 years and mostly a godly king. His long and prosperous reign was a gift of God's grace to Judah.

Now, as always when a significant leader dies there follows a time of vulnerability & uncertainty

At this point Isaiah has this stunning vision

The Lord is sitting on a THRONE. Who sits on a throne? King or Queen i.e. ruler

This throne is high and lofty It's elevation conveys authority & superiority

The mere HEM of the Lord's robe fills the temple!

SERAPHS - the meaning of their name means 'burning ones' were in attendance

4 of their 6 wings were used for covering themselves Why?

Because of the unapproachable glory of the one they were flying to serve

HOLY HOLY HOLY 3 times this word is used - pure and perfect

Isaiah experiences this awesome vision and has an overwhelming sense of God's mystery and power, God's holiness and his uncleanness

But Isaiah's vision becomes his commission

Isaiah is struck by his unworthiness and sinfulness and declares 'Woe is me... yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

And the seraph flies down, touches Isaiah on the lips with a burning coal and declares these amazing words

'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out!'

Isaiah then hears the Lord ask 'Whom shall I send?'

And Isaiah responds 'Here I am. Send me!'

Fishermen in Luke

They were there alongside Jesus.

Whilst the men were cleaning their nets after a long night's fishing, He used their boat as a floating pulpit

After teaching he told Simon Peter to put out into the water and go fishing!!!!

In the day time after a night of non-productive efforts!!

Extraordinary catch!! Enough fish to fill 2 boats and cause them to begin sinking!!

Simon Peter, James and John and all who were with them were amazed at the catch of fish

Simon Peter saw the catch and fell to his knees in recognition and conviction

Recognition of Jesus' power and conviction of his sin

'I am a sinful man!'

And Jesus gave them their commission

Do not be afraid! From now on you will be catching people

They left EVERYTHING and followed Jesus

God is an awesome God, one who is greater than we can imagine, more Holy than comprehend
And who are we compared to Him?

And yet He calls us, sends us and uses us.

Paul recognised that he unfit to be called an apostle and yet, because of God's grace we each
have a calling and a purpose.

Paul summarises just what God has done for us, For you and me
Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,
and he was buried and he was raised on the third day

Why do we come to worship?

What is our experience of God

It may or may not be a beautiful and awe inspiring vision like Isaiah had

It may or may not be a miracle like the enormous catch of fish that Simon Peter and the others saw

But for all of us, Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose on 3rd day

Time of reflection and thinking and praying

We've sung 'Let us like them without a word rise up and follow thee'

We are going to sing 'I will go Lord where you lead me...'

Let us proclaim just who God is through the words of the song All Heaven Declares...

All heaven declares

The glory of the risen Lord.

Who can compare

With the beauty of the Lord?

Forever you will be the lamb upon the throne.

I gladly bow the knee and worship you alone.