

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 4 Issue 5



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

Missions Sunday: See. Be. Do.
Isaiah 6:1-8
Sermon by Calvin Lamar Brown, Sr.
February 4, 2018

Today's sermon focused missions. Pastor Calvin started his message by talking about autostereograms. When you look at an autostereogram, your brain initially sees repeating 2D patterns from both eyes. This is because your brain automatically focuses on the image itself. When you are able to focus your eyes behind the 2D pattern, your eyes start to look at the pattern at a slightly different angle. At this point, your stereopsis kicks in and your brain is able to construct the 3D image at a depth different to that of the 2D pattern." He went on to explain that Isaiah had a somewhat similar experience with the Lord. Something happened in his life (related to the death of Uzziah) that changed his perspective or view of God, self, others, and life. It is common in Scripture where God shakes up a person's situation, in order to focus or refocus their attention on eternal-matters, God-matters.

Calvin broke the passage into 3 sections. The first was "See." In verses 1-4, Isaiah saw the Lord in His holiness, power, and supremacy. Calvin cross referenced Psalm 8 as well. The challenge to us in the 21st century is do we see God in the rightful way. Too often we see God the way that we want to see Him as opposed to how and Who He really is. When we see him as He is, and not how we want Him to be, our response will be dramatically different.

This leads to "Be." Isaiah realized how far away he and others were from the Lord, spiritually and relationally. His only response was "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips" But, God had a remedy for Isaiah – just as He has a remedy for all us. He took away Isaiah's guilt and his sins were atoned for. In Christ, God has done the same for us. When we see our true spiritual condition before God and confess our sin, placing our faith in the work of Christ, we are saved by His grace. Our sins are erased!

What other response can there be then to "Do." Isaiah hears an invitation from the Lord, is overwhelmed with gratitude, and responds positively to the invitation to go on mission with/for the Lord. The same is true for those of us who are in Christ – we have all been prepared to do (Ephesians 2:10) – and we have all been called to do (Matthew 28:18-20). We are called to be on mission with/for Him, locally and/or globally, wherever He has given us opportunity and influence.

E-CHECK: Embracing Intimacy With God and Engaging Our Circles of Influence

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read Isaiah 6:1-4. Also, take the time to read Psalm 8. List out what Isaiah and the psalmist say about God and His Kingdom. Take the time to picture in your mind the scenes described. If you are an artist, draw the scenes. What do you see? How does it impact your view of God? What about your view of yourself? How did Isaiah respond?

Read Isaiah 6:5-7 and Ephesians 2:1-9. What did the seraphim do to Isaiah? Why was that necessary? How did that change Isaiah's relationship with God? What has Christ done for you? Why was that necessary? Do you have an intimate relationship with God?

Read Isaiah 6:8 and Ephesians 2:10. What was Isaiah's response to the call of God? Did he first worry about whether or not he was equipped? Have you responded to the call of God in your life? Meditate on Ephesians 2:10 – what does it mean that we are His workmanship? Have you moved forward in the good works that God has called you to in Christ Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How do you view God? Put another way, what words would you use to describe Him and His nature?

How do you view yourself in light of how you see God? Do you see a gap? If so, how do you reconcile the gap(s)?

How do you view others, especially people you know who do not seem to be Christians?

What do you see as a need in your community or in the world? How can you make a difference, even a relatively small one?

Are you willing to let God lead your life, even if that means sacrificing your goals and dreams for the sake of the mission?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Make it a point to gather this week with your family and/or a small group. Discuss See. Be. Do. What have you seen about God? Does everyone in your group have an intimate relationship with him? What are you DOing as a response?

KEY POINT:

See. Be. Do.

See God in His holiness, power and supremacy. Accept His invitation to be in intimate relationship with Him. Do the work He has called you to... be on mission with and for Him.

RESOURCES:

One Year New Testament Bible (available at the information table)

The Purpose-Driven Life by Rick Warren

How To Be A World-Class Christian: Becoming Part of God's Global Kingdom by Paul Borthwick and Rick Warren