

Sermon Title: "Is There Life After Life?"

February 6, 2022

Biblical Passage: Isaiah 6:1-8

Passage Background and Summary

The highlighted verse for today was verse 1: "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple." It was after the death of Uzziah that Isaiah was able to encounter God, hear from God, and accept his call.

Sermon Points

The question for this sermon is: Is there life after life? Life is the character of how we have come to know what is familiar and how we live out the days of our lives. How do we live when that which has been so vital, essential, and familiar is moved? What do we do when we're still alive even though that upon which we've built our identity has died?

Isaiah wrestles with the question: Is there life after life? Life as he had known it had died with King Uzziah, and Isaiah finds himself in the Temple. What drove him to the Temple in the first place? The scripture says, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord." Uzziah was going through trauma, and trauma and transition often have a way of leading us to the Temple, whether the loss of loved ones, of a relationship, or of a job or career. Isaiah couldn't see what God wanted him to see until Uzziah died. What is it that is blocking what God wants us to see in our lives? Uzziah was a great king who built up the infrastructure, defeated great armies, and under whose leadership the nation flourished. Yet, when Isaiah stopped gazing at the king, he could see the King of Kings. It was then that he discovered his new assignment.

Can you handle change? Our lives as we have known them two years into a pandemic should lead us to ask ourselves: Is there life after life? Is there life after that which we thought was normal has shifted? Is there life on the other side of this pandemic? During this pandemic, we've lost great heroes and we haven't been able to grieve in the same ways. How do we discover life after the transition, after the disappointment, after life?

We have to:

1. **Exalt the Savior:** God alone is God. We cannot exalt our career, our boss, our money, our pastor or denomination, our buildings, etc. We must exalt the one who is the strength of our life and in whom we live, move, and have our being. Isaiah's perspective was being corrected. It is the Lord who is high and lifted up.
2. **Examine Yourself:** Isaiah is honest. He says I am undone. I am broken. Sometimes it's in the broken places that God can do something with us. We may be so filled up with our achievements and accomplishments that God can't do anything with us. Maybe God ushered us out of the Temple so we can worship, not the Temple but the Lord of the Temple.
3. **Embrace This New Season:** Isaiah entered a whole new season. The angel came down and touched his mouth. God can touch you in the midst of what you lost and give you a new season. Let us lean into this new season. God is not finished speaking, and God is not finished doing exceedingly and abundantly above all we can ask think and imagine. God is preparing to do something that will blow your mind, but sometimes that which we thought was essential has to

go up in smoke. We were undone, broken down, but built back up. We are strengthened in the broken places. In this season, we can find something new to say. We can testify to the God who is making a way out of no way. There is life after life.

4. **Embrace Yourself:** Now that you've been through the test, you've got a testimony! Share that testimony with others so they understand how great God is – what He's done for you, He'll do for others.

Reflection Questions

1. In what way(s) have you seen God during this pandemic?
2. What aspects or areas of your life might be preventing you from seeing God fully? What things might you be exalting rather than God?
3. Are there any times in your life where a loss has driven you to the Temple? If so, please share what you found in the Temple.
4. If you examine yourself and are honest, what do you think you will discover about yourself?
5. When have you ever experienced God using your brokenness?
6. What do you need to do to embrace this new season? Is there anything that you sense God calling you to in this season?