



27 MAR 2022 | Bishop Rennis Ponniah | MISSIONS IN OUR WORLD PART 1 | ISAIAH 6:1-8

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Have a greater revelation of God's holiness and grace towards us.
2. Be captivated once again by the call of God to go into the nations.

SERMON SUMMARY

In the midst of the adversity of our times, we must recover our vision of God and His salvation plan for the world. Together as the people of God, let us participate in God's loving mission to a lost and broken world. Bishop Rennis covered the following points:

1. Isaiah was undone by the stunning holiness of God (The Vision of God, v 1-5)
2. Isaiah was amazed by the sheer grace of God (The Provision of God, v 6-7)
3. Isaiah was captivated by the salvation plan of God (The Commission of God, v 8-13)

"Here am I, Lord, to be broken, cleansed and sent anew to proclaim Your Lordship and Your Kingdom."

SERMON RECAP

Context of Isaiah

Isaiah prophesied when Judah turned a deaf ear to the Lord (739-681 BC). Instead of serving Him with humility and offering love to their neighbours, the nation of Judah offered meaningless sacrifices in God's temple at Jerusalem and committed injustices throughout the nation. Although King Uzziah was very successful politically, he did not lead the nation of Judah back to the Lord. When Isaiah received his vision in the year King Uzziah died, God was communicating with him that the survival/progress of Judah is not depend on a politically effective King but on God.

1. Isaiah was undone by the stunning holiness of God (The Vision of God, v 1-5)
 - In the first part of the vision, God showed Isaiah His holiness.
 - When the Seraphim proclaimed, "Holy!" 3 times, it emphasised the completeness of God's holiness – He is the definition of holiness.
 - As a result, Isaiah saw how sinful he was.
2. Isaiah was amazed by the sheer grace of God (The Provision of God, v 6-7)
 - Even though Isaiah was sinful and lived among sinful people, God made him holy through the burning coals that touched his lips.
 - This is not through Isaiah's merit, but rather through God's grace.

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- We may feel inadequate to “go forth”. But God, through Christ has enabled us and made us clean, qualifying us for His work.
3. Isaiah was captivated by the salvation plan of God (The Commission of God, v 8-13)
- Isaiah responded without hesitation even though it will be a frustrating role – he would be preaching but it will only harden their hearts further... until they go into exile.
 - The good news that comes from God that in spite of His holiness and our sinfulness, He sends us to bring hope and good news to the harvest field.
 - God’s great concern is the salvation of His lost children.
 - May we once again be captivated by God’s good news and be propelled “to go” into the harvest field. May we be like Isaiah and say – “Here I am, send me!”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Isaiah, the prophet, saw a vision of God on His throne. If you were Isaiah, how would you feel in that moment and do you think this would change your life?** [15 mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question. Isaiah, the prophet, is one of the few people in Scripture that saw God in all His glory. Scripture tells us that the first thing in which Isaiah experienced was a deep sense of un-holiness in light of God’s perfect holiness (conviction of sin). This would have undoubtedly changed his whole life. Having experienced and seen God’s holiness, this would definitely have propelled him towards living a holy life.

If we were to experience this as New Testament believers, we would undoubtedly be convicted of our sins – how unrighteous we are in sight of God. However, we would also have a greater sense of appreciation of what Christ has done (on the cross) to reconcile us (unholy individuals) to a holy God.

Transition

In order for us to live lives that are pleasing before the Lord, we would first need to have a renewed vision of God each day by reading His Word and experiencing Him through the Holy Spirit.

2. **“There will always be missionaries in the field and Christians giving to the work of missions. Therefore, whether I participate in God’s call or not is insignificant.” What do you think about this popular opinion?** [10 mins]

Leader's Notes

This statement is a popular opinion in today’s day and age. As a result, many Christians are not involved in the work of missions and would rather use their time and money on themselves. There are a number of reasons why this mindset is un-Biblical. Firstly, God commands us to go into the nations to make disciples ([Acts 1:8](#), [Matthew 28:19](#)). Secondly, what the harvest needs (more than money and resources) is relationships. When we are involved in the work of missions, we are relating to the harvest field. Through us, they can experience the love and person of God. Jesus was the Word that became flesh (He related with His



mission field). Thirdly – when we choose to focus our energy and resources on ourselves rather than on the harvest field (local or abroad), our lives then become about us rather than about God. It reveals the true state of our hearts. A mature believer is one that is always harvest and kingdom focused.

Transition

Being involved in missions is not really an option. It becomes an expression of who we are in Christ. When we participate in God’s work in the mission field, we become the hands and feet of God (imago dei) to the harvest field and we mature into Christlikeness – our lives are centered around God’s work and His kingdom.

- 3. Isaiah’s vision was followed by a commissioning. Similarly, Jesus, while He was in the world, revealed who God is to us. Then, He commissioned us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations ([Matthew 28:19](#)), prior to His ascension. Why then do you think so many Christians are not “going into the world and making disciples of all nations”? How can you as a cell “go into the nations to make disciples”? [15 mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. Many Christians are unwilling to “go” because of various reasons – too caught up with life on earth, FOMO, wrong priorities in life attitude of the heart, etc. When we start to remove these barriers from our lives, we will propel ourselves to flow with the current of the River, bringing life wherever it goes.

One practical way by which the cell can “go”, is by being involved in one of the Missions from Home projects (rlc.sg/mfh-signup). When we avail ourselves to “go”, God can use our lives to bring LIFE to those in the nations.

Closing

So, let us lay aside anything that distracts our call as believers – to “go” and to “make disciples of all nations”. Let us experience a greater revelation of God each day so that our lives will not be a reservoir but a river that brings life wherever it flows.

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to have a greater revelation of who God is
- For us to once again appreciate the work of Christ
- For us to lay aside our distractions, and to “go” and make disciples

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Pray for God’s protection on our nation from the virus.
- Pray for God’s strength on our nurses and healthcare workers as they manage the influx of cases.

3. War In Ukraine

- Praise the Lord for the peace negotiations so far.
- Pray for Russia and Ukraine as they continue with their peace negotiations.
- Pray for the safety of all Ukrainians especially the churches there.
- Pray for a swift end to the invasion.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our missions initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new missions website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
2. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can support the work of RCS by participating in our annual Family Movie Day. For instructions on how you can watch a movie this June holidays and stand for families visit this link rlc.sg/rcsmovie.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items - toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
3. **Easter at RiverLife: Unexpected.** 9 & 11 AM Services, 17 April (10 April – Palm Sunday). More details to follow.
4. **RiverLife Podcast.** We are excited to launch a new resource – The RiverLife Podcast on Spotify. The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! For a start, you will be able to catch up on all six sermons from our *Let The River Flow* sermon series. The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
5. **New Pulpit Series: *Heaven's Pulse, Our Calling*.** Our renewed vision for RiverLife is to allow God's life-giving river to flow through us so that we may bring hope



and healing to our communities and the nations. This series is an invitation to lean in closer to Christ so that we can catch on to what matters to Him. It is only when our hearts beat in tandem with Jesus', that we can truly pray, live and give like Him.

6. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
7. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is now open for kids aged two and below from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday. **NO booking of tickets is required.** In order to protect the health of our little ones, parents, do refer to the updated guidelines in our [e-bulletin](#).
8. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
9. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
10. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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