

## GOD IS LOOKING

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8.

Why does the Lord ask this question with such anxiety when He has all those shining seraphs standing at His side, and each one of them with six wings? Seraphs, not sinners, should surely be the preachers of such holiness as that of the God of Israel, and the heralds of such a Saviour. At least, that is what we would have expected. But God's thoughts in these things are not as our thoughts. Only once did God choose a completely sinless preacher. In every other case God has chosen sinful men. Frequently He has chosen the most sinful of men He could get to speak to their fellow-men about sin and salvation. And just as for the awakening and warning of sinners, so has He chosen those for the edification and comfort of saints. Isaiah, accordingly, of all men on the earth at the moment, and of all angels in Heaven, was the man chosen of God to preach repentance to Jerusalem and to prophesy to her the coming of her Messiah. And he preached on all these matters as no angel in Heaven could have preached.

Why is God asking for human service instead of doing the work Himself? It is because the great purpose which He seeks to accomplish can best be achieved through human instrumentality. God has all power but still He uses human instruments to do His work. He has full and complete power, and yet He calls upon men to go out with His message.

God has power, but He does not force the will of any person. He wants men to serve Him, and He calls men into His service, but He waits for their acceptance of His call.

When God called Isaiah to the status of privilege, honor, and influence in witnessing for Him, there was no hesitation. We are impressed by the willingness with which the prophet offered Himself. He stepped forward quickly as one who felt it an honor to serve God, and was ready for any sacrifice which the honor might entail. When God asked for his services, Isaiah offered himself, and God accepted his services. In like manner, the voice of the Lord cries loudly in the midst of His churches today inviting voluntary service for difficult work. God wants to work through a certain kind of people. For what type of people is God looking?

### I. A Submissive People.

God called Isaiah, but He waited for him to be submissive. He is always looking for Christian people who will say, "Thy will be done."

Abraham was living quietly in his father's house when God said, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." Abraham went too not knowing whither he went.

Moses was taking care of the sheep in Midian when God called him to undertake a tremendous task. He sought to escape the call of God, but finally was submissive and willing to go as and where God should lead.

Peter, James, and John were fishermen in the Sea of Galilee when Jesus passed by and called them into His service. They were willing to follow Him. The Scripture says, "They immediately left all and went after Him."

Paul and Barnabas were leaders in the church at Antioch. Doubtless they were happy in the fellowship of the saints, but one day the Lord said, "I want you to go as My Missionaries," and they left the church in Antioch and went out unto various places where the Gospel had never been preached.

Inner peace and joy will be ours when we are submissive to the will of our Lord and Saviour. The Lord is looking for submissive people, those who are willing to follow Him anywhere.

"It is not mine to question the judgments of the Lord,  
It is but mine to follow the leadings of His Word."

God is looking for Christians who are willing to be bruised for the sake of Jesus. It is not hard to get volunteers for Christian service, but the majority of the volunteers cease to work when the way calls for suffering. In Isaiah 53:10 we read, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him." Jesus was willing to be bruised in order to carry out the will of God. Our Heavenly Father is looking for people who are willing to be bruised if souls can be brought to the Saviour. Are you willing to suffer for Jesus if the need arises?

God is looking for people who are willing to accept His plans for their lives. He has a plan for everything, and He certainly has a plan for you. He may be calling you to do something very difficult. He may be calling you to follow Him, even though mother and father and others oppose. Whatever you do, accept His plan and do His will.

## II. A Separated People.

We have been so slow to learn that we can not be used of God if we are entangled with the world. In writing to Timothy, Paul said, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." If we are to be worthy servants of God we must be separated from the world. God cannot use an unclean vessel. He does not demand great and talented people, but He does require clean and dedicated instruments. "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." II Timothy 2:20-21. If our desire to be vessels unto honour is to be gratified, we must purge out of our lives the things which are displeasing unto the Lord.

Not only is God looking for people separated from the world, but He is also looking for those who are separated unto Him. A negative separation tends to self-righteousness. A positive separation will make us humble and will keep us close to the Lord. It is not enough for a Christian to be good; he must be good for something. God is calling for faithful servants, and we must answer His call by separating ourselves from the world and unto Him for His service.

## III. A Spirit-Filled People.

God's work must be done with God's power. We are sure to fail if we seek to work in our own strength. This is one of the greatest hindrances to the work of Christ today. At one time or another we are all guilty of this sin. We rush ahead without waiting for the endowment of power from on high. After we have made such miserable failures we look back and realize that it was because we went without His power.

We are indwelt by the Spirit when we receive Christ as our Saviour, but the filling of the Spirit takes place when we completely surrender to Him. Every child of God has the privilege of being filled with the Spirit.

Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

### 1. In order to overcome temptation.

There is no overcoming power in any of us until the Holy Spirit has contrall of us. Man cannot overcome temptation in his own strength. If any Christian will surrender his life completely to the Lord, the Holy Spirit will make of him an overcomer.

### 2. In order to show forth Christ to the world.

In ourselves we cannot live the Christ-like life. It is only when we are filled with the Spirit that others can see Jesus through us. One of the great needs today is that others might see Christ in us and through us. It is through being filled with the Spirit that we are able to make this possible.

3. In order to win the lost to Christ.

When God's Spirit fills us, we are able to speak to the unsaved about their acceptance of Christ and success will crown our efforts. If we are not filled with the Spirit, our words will be powerless, and we will be unable to bring men to Jesus.

God is looking for Spirit-filled Christians. Will you be one to answer His call? The outstanding needs of our churches today are a separation from the world, the filling of the Holy Spirit and a burden for lost souls.

IV. A Sacrificial People.

This is a selfish world. Paul said, "For all seek their own, and not the things of Christ." Missionary C. T. Studd once said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." God is certainly looking for those who are willing to give up personal desires and ambitions for Him. He is looking for those who will give of their time. He is looking for those who will give sacrificially of their money. He is looking for those who will sacrifice pride and selfish ambition. God is looking for those who will give up comfort and luxury and selfish pleasure for His glory. The nails of the cross must be driven into self. We must die in order that He may be the center of our affections and life.

In the midst of this selfish world, are you willing to be a sacrificial Christian? Christ Jesus is looking for such to serve Him.

Someone may ask the question, "Why sacrifice?" The answer is, "We must sacrifice in order that others may know our Saviour and be saved." There is no nobler work on earth than that of witnessing to lost people for Christ. It is not always easy. Sometimes it is very hard, but oh the joy of seeing people come to the Saviour.

God is looking over this audience now. How many submissive, separated, Spirit-filled, sacrificial people will He find? May your heart respond now and say, "I will be one. Take me, Lord, and use me."