

Introduction: Pg. \_\_\_\_\_, Dismiss kids. Welcome Guests - Connect Cards...

**“Fight for Vision”  
Isaiah 6:1-13**

Today I want to undertake a modest task. In the next half hour, I want to change the way you see.

During my 11 week Sabbatical break, my number one priority was getting fresh vision, NOT FOR Redemption Hill (don't be disappointed). But OF GOD.

As that pursuit was happening day by day, God began to run the desire deeper and deeper, to the point where my greatest desire to SEE GOD everywhere, every day, all the time.

This is one of my greatest dreams for you. Pls listen closely. I want to help us FIGHT FOR VISION.

How can we??

**1. Fight for a fresh Vision of God.**

In Isaiah 6, we find the prophet Isaiah, one of God's key representatives, describing a crossroads moment in his life. And in this moment, he gets a fresh vision of God.

**Read 6:1-4**

Isaiah begins by saying: “In the year that King Uzziah died, I SAW THE LORD sitting upon a throne high and lifted up.”

This is where it everything starts. This is where we must stay.

**Our vision of God is EVERYTHING!**

While we could spend time talking about what's happening with the angels in verse 2 and the power of the God's voice in verse 4, I want us focus on verse 3:

“Holy, holy holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is FULL OF HIS GLORY.”

God is holy. In the Hebrew language, emphasis comes by immediate repetition. (For example, my wife is beautiful, beautiful.).

God's holiness refers to him being completely set apart from all other beings. He is the Creator. Everything else is created. There is no one or nothing like him!

But when the angels called out to one another... “Holy, holy holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is FULL OF HIS [we would expect them to say: Holiness, but they say] GLORY.”

***The glory of God is the display of his infinite worth.*** It is holiness made known!

God is intrinsically glorious, and that shines through in everything he does.

The earth IS FULL of the glory of God!

That means it is not just a future reality, as in Habakkuk 2:14, which says, "For the earth WILL BE filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." Make no mistake, that day, where God's glory will be displayed, seen, and known in comprehensive fashion, is coming!

But verse 3 says: "The earth IS FULL" - RIGHT NOW! Today!!

We get to see his glory every day, but we have to fight to see it! Why?

### Spiritual Sight

- Because there's seeing, and then there's *seeing*. You can see without seeing.
- God has given us physical eyes. There are pretty important. :)
  - Story: Optometrist when I was 23.
- But he has also given us spiritual eyes. They are *more* important.
- Did you know our spiritual vision is like our physical vision? We experience varying degrees of health. As we grow in Christ, we move from 20/40 to 20/30 to 20/20. Why not 20/15, 20/10?

Apart from God's grace, we are spiritual blind.

- 2 Corinthians 4 talks about how God must shine his light into our hearts "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
- Our seeing depends on his revealing!
- "in your light we see light." (Psalm 36:9)

And when his light comes, it changes how we see everything!! I'm talking about living with supernatural vision!

T: The Christian life is about learning to see, but there are things we do every day, all the time that either hinder or help our vision.

What hinders? We hinder our vision through false worship, or idolatry.

- Idolatry is god replacement (anything we elevate, chase after, or love more than God). Stuff, Sex, Accomplishments, Relationships, the list is endless. Idolatry is vision misplaced.
- When we chase idols, something happens. Describe Psalm 115:3-7 ("Our God is in the heavens... Their idols are the work of human hands. They have mouths, eyes, ears, noses, hands, feet... "Those who make them [idols] become like them, so do all who trust in them." (Psalm 115:8)
- This helps explain the complex verses in... Read 6:9-13
  - Why couldn't they see? "Their land is filled with idols." (2:8) They were filled with "lofty pride." (2:11). They "defied his glorious presence" (3:8). They "called evil good and good evil" (5:20). They've become what they worshiped! Dull hearts. Heavy ears. Blind eyes.

But don't despair. Just as false worship hinders, true worship helps!

What helps?

- Worship is seeing and valuing the infinite worth of God above everything! God, you are higher. You are better! I'm locked in on YOU!
- And when we lock in on the glory of God, God transforms us into the same glory!

**YOU ARE WHAT YOU BEHOLD**

Idolatry: "Those who make them [idols] become like them, so do all who trust in them." (Psalm 115:8)

Worship: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

T: As we grow as worshipers (that locking in!), we see with greater clarity and frequency and enjoyment! With God's help, we can see his glory everywhere. After all, the whole earth is full of it! But how?

How do we see the fullness of his glory?

Let me put some practical handles for the every day that will infuse a major dose of life into your moment by moment relationship with God.

Here's the logic of verse 3.

If the whole earth is FULL of his glory,  
then open your eyes.

Seeing God and his glory everywhere

- Look at God's work in creation? Skies and seas. Mountains and trees. If you look closely and have eyes to see, you'll see glory of God in every blade of grass, every grain of sand, every flake of snow :) They are shouting. GOD is GLORIOUS! (Psalm 19:1ff; Psalm 148)
- What about people, the pinnacle of God's creation? We are made in the image of God. (Glory and Garbage)
- Do you see the work of God in redemption?
  - People's lives being changed before our eyes.
  - And every moment we walk in his light, we are glory distributors! (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- In events... God is the God of celebration, the God of the dance, the God of the feast, the God of victory, the God of song, the True Artist, the True Teacher, the True Physician, the True Engineer.

Yes, they may be glimpses, but glory IT IS all the same.

"Life is simple: we are living in a world that is absolutely transparent & God is shining through it all the time."

"By reading the Scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God ... " - Thomas Merton

God, we see through [that transparent beauty in creation or enjoyable meal, or championship parade, or conversation with a friend] to see you.

T: What if you started seeing God everywhere? What would it do to your soul? It will...

## 2. Be activated into the mission of God. (6:5-8)

A vision of God, moves us, activates us, into the mission of God. We see this in Isaiah's life.

## Read 6:5-8

Let me give you three broad strokes of how our vision activates us to mission... Of first importance, it leads us to

### Humility

- Isaiah caught this fresh revelation of the holiness and definitive glory of God and his first response??
- WOE IS ME! That's W-O-E. He's *literally* calling down curses. He doesn't feel as though he deserves to even live in light of how majestic God is!
- He says why: "for I am lost; I am a man of unclean lips and the people around me are exactly the same!"
- Seeing God helps us see ourselves. We then say "God, you are holy, I am not. You are glorious. I am not." But God, make me like you!! Change me! I need you.

T: The glory of God will drive you to your knees, but it won't leave you there. It will put you back on your feet and make you dance. We're humbled, but also...

### Captivated.

- This is not explicit in Isaiah's response, but implied. I think I can make the case:
  - What's your emotional and cognitive response when you hear: "God, sitting on a throne. The train of his robe filled the temple. Angels flying around him, he's even too holy for angels to look on - so they cover their eyes, but as they cover their eyes they shout "Holy, holy...." And the foundations are shaking... the whole house filled with smoke at the presence of his glory!
- Shock and awe. Complete captivation.
- Glory seen enralls us, thrills us, fills us with a sense of wonder. God is THAT great.
- Can you believe: God not only wants us to see his glory, he wants us to enjoy his glory, to delight in that which is most delightful.

### This is why Merton said...

**"The whole world is charged with the glory of God [but didn't stop there], and I feel the fire and music under my feet. " - Thomas Merton**

Do you see how this infuses ADVENTURE and JOY into your every day? Every step can be a glorious step!

God wants THIS - FOR YOU! Open your eyes. Enjoy! Every moment intimacy with God every day!

DEEP relationships are marked by openness (a vulnerability), attentiveness (notice things, see things, have a keen interest), but it doesn't stop there. There is also a curiosity of heart that drowns apathy and indifference, in the deep conviction, there is always more here.

Oh God, humble us, captivate us, and send us out. That's the third movement we see in verse 8.

### Sent. (VERSE 8)

Look back at verse 8, after he is touched and cleansed by the grace of God, it says: "And I heard a voice..."

The question: "Who will go?" Our response: "Here I am! Send me!"

- Humility says: "God you are glorious. I am not."
- Captivation" "God you are glorious. I am in awe."
- Mission says: "You are glorious. I am going."
  
- When we see the glory of God, he could ask us ANYTHING, our YES is already on the table.
- I mean this would not have been an easy sell. Go speak but they won't listen. Doesn't sound like a lot of fun (Tanner, go to Boston and never see anything happen! What?!), and yet seeing glory moves us to do whatever it takes for people to experience the same glory we have experienced!

**"Glory renders us intensely zealous." - Thomas Watson**

In other words, it makes us want to see more glory, and display more glory, so that more people know how glorious you are.

Oh God, I want to be part of a movement of people that have this kind of vision and are activated for your mission!

*Conclusion:*

?Invite the band up?

Will you worship your way into a clearly vision of God? Will you fight for it? Will you minimize the distractions? Will you look past your circumstances by looking up? That's fighting.

Tuesday night I had to fight.... Circumstances.. (Tanner, Look up. Tuesday night. Some stuff was on my mind. Took a walk to pray, to look up. That's fighting for vision!)

God, help us fight for vision.

Maybe it's slowing down in order to see, take take him in AGAIN. Scale down the calendar. Cut out some of the lesser things.

PRAYER & RESPONSE

God, help us fight for vision. Help us see as you see!

Humble us. Captivate us. Move us out in wonder, toward others in your name!

Post-Sermon Invitation.... (See RESEARCH NOTES)

1. Made for Glory (creation)
2. Exchanged Glory (sin)
3. Jesus came to reveal it and restore us to it (Death, resurrection-gospel)
4. Through faith in him, the exchange is reversed and our lives are worship. (Received)

