

Hot Lips

Jerry White

I. Introductory material.

- A. The importance of the unity of the body.
- B. Example of people who suggested giving to other ministries in their own support letters.
- C. There is no distinction between the church and the parachurch.
 - 1. However, the parachurch has brought in a practical/how-to sense of ministry.
 - 2. Nevertheless, they are often missing a desire to pursue righteousness.
- D. Life passes by quickly.

II. Isaiah 6.

- A. Occurred in the year of Uzziah's death. A very successful king, yet in his pride he sinned. After defying God, God made him a leper.
- B. The experience of Isaiah.
 - 1. He saw the Lord - it was not merely a vision.
 - 2. Can you recall a time in your life when God showed up clearly?
 - 3. He saw the Lord sitting high and exalted.
 - a. He would never forget this vision. The other visions that Isaiah saw were prophecies.
 - b. This was a vision for Isaiah personally - it was the preparation needed for the task that God had called him.
 - 4. The seraphim.
 - a. Strange creatures only found here in Scripture.
 - 5. The holiness of God.
 - a. The repetition of holiness draws emphasis to it.
 - b. Isaiah encountered the holiness of God.
 - c. Other passages describing the holiness of God.

1) Sharing in the holiness of God. (Hebrews 12:10)

2) Presenting bodies as living and holy sacrifices. (Romans 12:1-2)

d. God wants us to be holy as He is.

1) He sometimes does this by giving us a picture of Himself.

C. How God gets us to partake in His holiness.

1. The building shook.

2. Smoke filled the room.

3. Isaiah cried, woe is me!

a. The most important event.

b. In the presence of the holiness of God, he felt so dirty.

c. He recognized that he was among a people of iniquity.

D. Have we ever had a sense of the holiness of God and the weight of our sin?

1. The example of slavery and prostitution occurring in an ancient Dutch church.

2. Getting a sense of living among a people of iniquity.

3. Having a real sense that our private life often keeps us from becoming sold-out for God.

a. Our personal life causes us to be shattered in the presence of God.

b. Paul had this struggle. (Romans 7)

E. What God did to Isaiah hurt.

1. Healing comes by hurting.

2. Character comes by suffering.

3. Sometimes God has to do a very great work in our lives.

a. He takes the hot coals and touches them to the most sensitive part of our bodies.

b. This action is often public - when God brings the hot coals to us.

1) Personal example of Joe coming to Christ and leading prisoners to Christ - the experience leading him was terrible.

a) God's hand was on him, but what he had to go through hurt.

c. Instead of the hot coals touching our lips, the cross has taken our sin.

1) Many of us do not understand or believe this.

2) Two steps:

a) Seeing the evil.

b) Truly being cleansed.

F. The seraphim did not speak, but God did: whom shall I send?

1. Isaiah simply answered, here I am - send me.

a. This was the man with burned lips.

b. Many of us are willing to go, but unwilling to see the holiness of God and be cleansed.

1) The example of Yao who fed a malnourished child - he allowed God to speak.

2. We desperately need to see God and His glory and allow Him to cleanse us and cast our sin from us.

a. God can use us, but only if we have hot lips.

b. This is not just a salvation issue, but coming into His presence and surrendering to Him.

Application questions.

1. What was unique about the experience of Isaiah? What was the result?

2. The speaker makes it clear that change comes through suffering. Was there a time in your life when suffering resulted in fruitful gain? What else needs to accompany suffering in order for it to be character forming?

3. Encountering God is an essential activity in order to become usable for Him. What two things does the speaker say this involved for Isaiah? Reflect upon sin in your own life. Are you prepared to be healed by God's special touch?
