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# Key Notes

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## WHEN GOD TALKS TO HIMSELF

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8)*

In the sixth chapter of Isaiah (vv. 1-8) we find all the elements of an authentic worship service. What happened to Isaiah in the Temple is a model for what should happen every time God's people gather for worship.

- We see God in his holiness.  
*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord (vv. 1-4).*
- We see ourselves in our sinfulness.  
*Woe to me! I am ruined (v. 5).*
- We experience grace in its sanctifying power.  
*Your guilt is taken away (vv. 6-7).*

Many believe this is what worship is all about. *OK, now that my sins are forgiven and I'm right with God, I'm happy. I got what I came for. Can I go home now?*

I'm impressed by the fact that Isaiah's worship did not end at verse seven. If the service had ended here, the *purpose* of worship would not have been served. It is in the eighth verse that we discover what worship is all about.

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (v. 8)*

Seeing God in his holiness and experiencing grace in its sanctifying power had made it possible for Isaiah to enter in to the most holy place and listen to the very heart of God. God was talking to himself, agonizing over the state of his people, the sins of the nation, and the wickedness in the world. *Who will go for us? Who will waken them to their condition? Who will speak to them of my love... and justice?*

As the Father, Son and Holy Spirit deliberated these questions, Isaiah was listening. Worship ushered him in to intimacy with the triune God so that he was able to "eavesdrop" on a divine conversation. What he heard changed him forever. He began to understand who God is, what he thinks, what he feels and what his will is for the world. God never even spoke to Isaiah directly. God only spoke to God. But Isaiah had the privilege of overhearing the conversation. He was never again the same. He had touched the very heart of God. And now the only thing that mattered was being part of God's mission in the world! *Here am I. Send me!*

Will the purpose of worship be fulfilled this morning as we gather here? Or will the benediction come too soon?

Pastor Stan

*Let my heart be broken with the things that break  
the heart of God - Bob Pierce*