

## Can You See The Beauty of Holiness?

"Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

### I. Introduction

- A. I personally have struggled to comprehend Holiness
- B. I not only did not understand holiness, much less see the beauty of holiness.
- C. Older Christians, yes, they can live like God expects, but not me.
- D. Holiness also seemed like a hard cold standard impossible to achieve.
- E. My dilemma was this:
  1. I want to be holy, but I sin and by sinning I believed I could never be holy
  2. If I can't be holy, then I cant be with God.
  3. Peter said they we must be holy!
- F. I know that I share this with Many of you this morning.
  1. It's difficult for us to understand holiness.
  2. We read such very bold statements such as:
    - a. "I am Holy therefore you will be Holy'
    - b. "Only those holy will see God"
- G. Lets start in the beginning with Adam and Eve they were created holy.
  1. By choosing to break God's law and eat of the forbidden fruit they became defiled, unholy.
  2. Only God could help man regain holiness.
- H. This we can understand, but it's still difficult for most Christians to understand that they are holy and be confident in their holiness.
- I. One reason may be due to our lack of studying holiness because we have a fear that we are not holy so why study about something I can never achieve.
- J. Lets begin with simply trying to understand what holiness is.

### II. What Is Holiness?

- A. It's Pure. Only contains one ingredient:
  1. Illustration: comparision of a bottle of pure water vs. Bottled Rio Grande water  
Juice box: 2%, 10%, 100% (plus additives)
- B. That which is absolutely pure will of necessity be separated from anything else.
  1. "Fundamentally signifies separated (among the Greeks, dedicated to the gods), and hence, in Scripture in its moral and spiritual significance, separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred." (226). **Vines**
  2. "God is intrinsically holy and he calls his people to be holy, providing for them the standard of obedience whereby that holiness may be maintained (Lev. 19.2ff). Because God is holy, he is free from the

moral imperfections and frailties common to man (Hos. 11.9) and can be counted on to be faithful to his promises (Ps. 22.3-5) **TWOT, 788:**

3. "His character as totally good and entirely without evil."

C. Holiness is simply the opposite, which would be sinfulness!

1. You cannot mix that which is godly, good, with evil and have anything holy.

D. Things Holy are sanctified for service to God, such as the items in the tabernacle and people.

### **III. God called Israel to be a nation that was holy (Exodus 19:5-6)**

A. God was willing to make them holy.

1. if they would obey His commandments. They were expressed in Mosaic Law.

2. Mosaic Law was also a way of showing all nation

B. God's holiness through the nation of Israel's example.

1. When they were obedient (holy) they prospered beyond any nation and were invincible in battle against any enemy.

2. When they disobeyed his commandments they suffered.

C. The tabernacle served as an expression of the Holy dwelling place of God.

D. God's prophet Isaiah shares with us a glimpse of the holiness of heaven

1. Isaiah 6:1-3 "... I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

2. Were you able to see the beauty of holiness?

3. Maybe not, but this view is beautiful and overwhelming to us.

4. This was the same feeling Isaiah had, look at his response to this vision in
    - a. Isaiah 6:5 "And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"
  5. This is the response God wants us to have. Isaiah understood he was unworthy of being there because he was not holy.
- E. God provided Isaiah a way of becoming holy.
1. "Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for" (verses 6-7).
- F. Unfortunately we all too well see the result of ungodliness.
- G. So When God shows us the beauty of His holiness we should yearn for the purity of holiness in our life.

#### **IV. Today Jesus calls us to Holiness.**

- A. We like Israel are called to be holy, *"but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,"* 1 Peter 1:15.
- B. Jesus is our example of holiness.
  1. Just as the tabernacle and the Mosaic Law showed man God's holiness.
  2. The apostle John wrote *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth"* John 1:14.
  3. Jesus made known the beauty of holiness to man.
- C. When we realize our unworthiness to be in the presence of God because of our sin, then like Isaiah we can will cry out, "Wretched is me for I am a sinful man".
- D. Jesus who can make us holy.
  1. Paul says how we achieve holiness in Col. 1:21-22, *"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing*

*evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him”.*

E. Christians achieve holiness through the death of Christ.

1. We maintain holiness by determining to live without sinning. This allows us to have access to the blood of Christ that cleanses us when we sin if desire to turn away from that sin and confess them to God.

F. This is something I can accomplish.

G. Nothing can be any more precious and beautiful to a sinner!

V. **The beauty of Holiness witnessed.**

A. A woman caught in the very act of adultery.

1. This story is so compelling, and appealing to us.

B. This is greatest recorded example of holiness interacting with man.

C. There is so much we can learn from this story.

1. Jesus in this story is holiness.
2. the woman is everyone who has ever sinned.
3. Scribes and Pharisees represent man’s self-righteousness.

D. Imagine being dragged out in front of the Messiah?

1. She quickly understood that she was being used to discredit Jesus.
2. She knew that she wasn’t the only guilty party involved; yet the only one being judged.
3. She knew that she could never regain any dignity among her people, and must have felt like it would be better to be stoned.
4. She had no reason to expect compassion, kindness or help from Jesus.
5. The Scribes and Pharisees were seeking a way to accuse Jesus.

- E. They used the act of adultery to trap Jesus by forcing him to make a decision.
  - 1. Adultery under Mosaic Law required death, but Roman law would not permit the Jews to execute a death sentence.
- F. Any decision was going to place Jesus in violation of Mosaic Law or Roman law.
- G. Jesus simple causes everyone to examine themselves.
  - 1. the one that is holy (has no sin, pure) was to execute justice on the sinner.
- H. After all the sinners leave, we see how the tenderness of holiness changes the helpless sinner into one that is holy.
  - 1. *Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more" John 8:10-11.*
- I. The self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees rejected holiness by leaving instead of staying and learning from Him.
- J. This incident in the life of Jesus is about holiness: it may not be very obvious, but it is very powerful lesson to us concerning the holiness of God.

## **VI. Conclusion**

- A. See the beauty of holiness and know with confidence that you are holy.
- B. Not because your able to live a prefect life, but because God graciously makes you holy.
- C. This begins when you become a Christian.
- D. Then by following the two greatest commands.
  - 1. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.*

2. *And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” Matthew 22:37-39.

- E. You will always be victorious in achieving holiness
- F. Never forget the price paid for our holiness because it was through the brutal execution of Jesus Christ.
- G. Now can you see the beauty of holiness?

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