

## ***Reaping Repentance***

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two wings they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" ...*

*"Woe to me!" Isaiah cried out, "I am ruined. For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."*

*Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin is atoned for."*

*Isaiah 41:1-10*

While brought before the holiness and majesty of the Lord, Isaiah was brought to humility, reverence and repentance. Being exposed to God's splendor caused Isaiah to see his own sin, bringing him to his knees in desperation for salvation. God's righteous character made Isaiah's shame clear to Isaiah as never before. And yet, Isaiah did not run. Instead, Isaiah bowed low to the ground in repentant fashion, crying out, *"Woe to me...I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."* It was Isaiah's cry of guilt that brought God's healing mercy to him. After crying out to God in his desperate and hopeless state, God sent his angels to touch Isaiah's mouth with a coal straight from God's smoldering altar.

After reading these verses, the first thought that comes to my mind are the people in my life that have the same effect on me as Isaiah experienced in being exposed to God's holiness. There are people in my life who exhibit God's holiness and mercy in their character and behavior, consistently causing me to see my own guilt and repent of my sin. My Pastor Mike Yearley and his wife Lin are people that do this for me. Just being around them reminds me of my need to spend more time with Jesus so that I can become more like Jesus. Just as Isaiah did not run from God's presence, nor am I shamed to run from these precious people in my life. Instead, it is their own humility before God, obedience in changed lives aligned with God's directives, and mercy toward others which causes me come to my own state of repentance. In catching even a glimpse of God's holiness in their character and behavior, I am made clearly aware of my own shortcomings. But it is also in their humility before me that I find the courage to bow down to God as Isaiah did and receive the same mercy.

As I align myself more and more with God's will and remain in a place of humility, obedience, and mercy, my prayer is that I too can have this same impact on

those I come in contact with. As a redeemed woman of God, I have the opportunity to reveal both sides of God's character: righteousness and mercy. My hope is that I can be the kind of person who has the same impact on others as Isaiah experienced before God's throne. Do my actions point to God's holiness, helping others to see their sin and their need for a Savior? As leaders in God's kingdom, our example should be one that helps others to see their own sin, while then declaring God's mercy and holiness as our deliverer from our own sin. May we be a people who not only live repentant and holy lives, but may we also cause others to see their sin and to receive God's mercy as well.

Marilyn Williams