

An Ignatian-style Meditation on Isaiah 6: 1-8

Author's note:

The form of Ignatian meditation chosen is *lectio divina*: 'a response to scripture'. The three elements involved are:
(i) reading (the Bible passage);
(ii) meditating (upon the themes and images in the passage);
(iii) praying (in response to the passage and one's own meditations upon it).

Step 1:

Read Isaiah 6: 1-8.

Step 2:

Read the following Meditation:

You are transported with Isaiah to God's heavenly temple. Although you are unseen you see everything. You see the fabric of God's robe all around you. The robe is so enormous it fills the room, obscuring the floor, the walls and the ceiling. You feel the robe's texture; you see its marvellous design; you hear the sound it makes as it billows and swirls around you; you smell it as it brushes against you.

How do you feel? (PAUSE)

You see Isaiah. You hear the fear in his voice. You see his body trembling. You see him covering his eyes. (PAUSE)

You look up and see what Isaiah sees. A sudden burst of light temporarily blinds you. You squint and shade your face with your hands and there, in front of you, is a huge throne. You attempt

to focus your eyes on the figure seated on the throne because you want to see God for yourself.

What do you see? (PAUSE)

Your eyes can only see the angels – each with six wings – flying back and forth in front of the throne of God. Your ears are filled with the sound of the angels praising God. Your nostrils are filled with the smoke that fills the room. You can hardly stand upright because the temple is shaking so violently. (PAUSE)

You hear Isaiah cry out, "Woe is me! I am doomed, for my own eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts, I, a man of unclean lips, I, who dwell among a people of unclean lips."

What do you want to say to God? (PAUSE)

You see an angel take a hot coal from the altar and fly towards Isaiah. You see the angel place the coal onto Isaiah's lips. You see the miracle of healing take place before your very eyes. You hear the angel say, "Your sin is wiped out." You see Isaiah's joy.

What sin do you want wiped out? (PAUSE)

You then hear God say: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" (PAUSE)

You hear Isaiah's response: "Here am I. Send me!"

What is your response? (PAUSE)

Step 3:

Read the following prayer:

Lord, You see the needs of children and young people and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of those who work in nurseries and playgroups; schools, colleges and universities and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of those who inspect, audit and advise places of learning and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of the policy makers and politicians who shape education policy and allocate resources to fund learning and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of those who support, minister and pray for those engaged in education and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Help us to hear and answer your call to us:

Here am I! Send me!

AMEN

