"Finding Peace in the Call"
Isaiah 6:1-13

C.I.T.—The LORD calls Isaiah in accordance with His will.
C.I.S.—We submit to Jesus' will when accepting His call.
Purpose—I want to encourage our people to accept Jesus' call on His terms and not ours.
Introduction—Searching for peace in things of the world, but we should find it in obedience to His call.

I. ***Spiritual Encounter of the Call***—Vs. 1-8
   a. *Revelation of Jesus*—vs. 1-4
   b. *Response of Repentance*—vs. 5-7
   c. *Readiness for Faith*—vs. 8
   d. Illus.—Human tv remote and antennae
   e. Application
      i. We receive our specific calling when we position ourselves to hear that calling.
      ii. Many of us are clueless as to what the Lord wants us to do because we have had moments of repentance and faith.
      iii. We haven't responded to the light that we have already received, why would Jesus give us more.
      iv. Until you are tuned to the right frequency, you will never hear His call.

   Takeaway: ***Jesus' Call will come with worship.***

II. ***Spiritual Effect of the Call*** Vs. 9-10
   a. Marching order to preach.
      i. Content
      ii. Not the specific content of his message, if so, then the rest of Isaiah would contain this one sentence.
      iii. It was a synecdoche to refer to all of his preaching.
      iv. Regardless of what Isaiah preached, this is the underlying message that they would hear.
   b. Keep listening/keep looking
      i. Double use of each word which communicates emphasis and continuity.
      ii. They were listening and perceiving, but were not applying those teachings to their lives.
      iii. They were already doing this and they would continue to do this.
      iv. Ezekiel 33:30-32
   c. Their hearts would become hardened further.
      i. Minds dull/Ears deafened/Eyes blinded
      ii. Lest they hear and respond with faith and be healed.
      iii. Judicial hardening
         1. They hardened their hearts, the Lord responds with judgment which requires a further hardening.
         2. Pharoah in Exodus—Pharaoh hardened his heart until the 6th plague, after which the Lord hardened his heart
      iv. They had heard a genuine call to repentance and faith and rejected it.

v. Each time they rejected the message, their heart became more and more calloused.

d. Illus.—Callous is built over time

e. Application

i. At some point Jesus has enough of your rejection, and every message you hear serves to harden your heart.

ii. Isaiah 55:11

iii. When I preach, I know that some will respond positively and some negatively.

iv. True Biblical preaching will offend, even if it isn't preached in an offensive way.

v. That is not a preacher problem, but a people problem.

Takeaway: ***Jesus' Call will align with His purpose.***

II. ***Spiritual End of the Call*** Vs. 11-13a

a. How long?—I don't think Isaiah wanted to do this fully.

b. Realize God's Judgement

i. Until destroyed

ii. In the Lord's economy of justice, it was time for judgment against the people.

iii. While we want to emphasize that Jesus is a God of another chance, there is a limit to this.

iv. At some point, you have rejected Him to the point that justice must be served.

v. There will be a final judgment at which point there will be no more grace given.

c. Reveals God's Remnant

i. Image of a stump after felling and burning.

ii. That stump represents the remnant that did respond favorably to the call.

iii. While that remnant's faith isn't enough to save the whole community, it is enough to save them.

iv. This preaching would separate the faithful from the non-faithful.

d. Illus.—**Matt. 13:24-30**—Wheat and tares

e. Application

i. Isaiah was not tasked with building a great company, successful family, or large growing church.

ii. He was tasked with preaching the nation's funeral.

iii. He was going to separate the wheat from the tares.

iv. This would not have looked successful from the world's perspectives.

v. He would not lead the convention in baptisms.

vi. They would not give him any awards for church growth.

vii. However, Isaiah's faithfulness to the task got his preaching put in the Bible!

viii. The task then is not to be successful, but to be faithful.

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ix. Well done good and faithful servant.

Takeaway: ***Jesus’ Call will determine your success.***

Conclusion

- We try to find peace in all kinds of things.
    - I feel better when the budget is met, when people walk the aisle, when the waters are stirred.
    - But I find greater peace when I am being faithful to the call of God on my life.
    - My heart’s desire should not be to be honored by men, but by God.
    - This requires a submission to the call of God on my life, regardless of what that looks like.
- High School friend was called to ministry, and his parents dissuaded him because odds are a minister isn’t going to become wealthy.
- He dropped out of pursuing the ministry, and while he has bee successful in life, he will have to face the music on day on why he didn’t pursue ministry.
- You can have all the success you want, but if you have rejected the call of God on your life, including the call to salvation, then you have missed out.

Ezekiel 33:30 "As for you, son of man, your people are talking about you near the city walls and in the doorways of their houses. One person speaks to another, each saying to his brother, 'Come and hear what the message is that comes from the LORD!' 31 So my people come to you in crowds, sit in front of you, and hear your words, but they don't obey them. Their mouths go on passionately, but their hearts pursue dishonest profit. 32 Yes, to them you are like a singer of passionate songs who has a beautiful voice and plays skillfully on an instrument. They hear your words, but they don't obey them.

Isaiah 55:11 so my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do."

Matthew 13:24 He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. 26 When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. 27 The landowner's servants came to him and said, 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from? ' 28 " 'An enemy did this,' he told them. " 'So, do you want us to go and pull them up? ' the servants asked him. 29 " 'No,' he said. 'When you pull up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I'll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but collect the wheat in my barn.'"