

## SOM Week 16 Overview

### Readings

- Philippians 1-4
- The Crucified Life by A. W. Tozer (Chapters 1-6, Pg 1-88)

### Teaching: A Commitment to Holiness

#### Introduction

- Our teaching this morning is on Holiness, rather a commitment to being Holy. Holy, Holiness- it means to be set apart, to be separate.
- If you are taking note, i have 4 main points: 1) Holiness starts with seeing who God is, and who we truly are, 2) for those of who serve and come close, there is a higher standard and a need to be set apart. 3) Holiness is a commitment, a life long posture of choosing to live for the Lord 4) we will all fall short
- And there are a number of exhortatons for the believer calling us to be separate
  - 2 corinthians 6:17 "Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."
  - Romans 12:1" I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* reasonable service."
  - 1 Peter 1:16 "because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
- I love this quote from Chuck Smith on Holiness "There is a danger when we use the term "holiness" because there have been holiness groups and holiness has been defined in many different ways. So often, holiness is defined as sort of an outward form of dress or things of that nature. Many times I feel that I am holy because of what I do not do, rather than truly understanding what holiness is. Holiness is a response of my heart to the awareness of who God is. And the closer I get to God, the greater the realization of my own sin, my own sinful state, my worthlessness, and my total dependency upon His grace and upon His mercy. I realize that I must never presume upon the grace and the mercy of God."
- Just being in ministry, I have seen first hand the effect and the disaster caused by sin. Marriages, lives, families ruined by the effects of sin. By those who thought they were strong enough, or that it didn't apply to them, by those who wanted to play with sin. And it destroyed them.
- There are far too many christians and even those in ministry and leadership who want to play the line, to see how close they can get to the edge and not fall in.
  - And what we forget is that there is an adversary, an enemy that wants to take us down. And enemy that is looking for chinks in our armor.
  - 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
    - Satan wants to destroy you. He wants to destroy your ministry. He wants to put you on the shelf and disqualify you.

- And the way we combat that is by staying near to Jesus. Putting on the whole armor of God. Not giving Satan a foothold. And I think all of that starts with having a proper view of who God is and who we are.

#### Look back at Isaiah 6

- Just a little bit of background. Isaiah is prophesying during the time of the death of king Uzziah. King Uzziah had been a great king ruling the nation for some 52 years. And for the most part he had been a really good king. Uzziah had started reigning when he was 16 years old, and God had prospered him.
- There's a great verse in 2 Chronicles 26:5 "And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper."
  - I love that verse. I just found another similar verse in 2 Chronicles 15:2 "The Lord is with you, while you be with him and if you seek him, he will be found of you; but if you forsake him, he will forsake you"
- God gave Uzziah victory against the philistines, the Arabians, the Meunims, God made Uzziah strong and to prosper.
- But the Holy Spirit tells us 2 Chronicles 26:16 "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense"
  - That job was only of a priest, not a king. And the priests withstood him, and he got angry, and God struck him with leprosy. And he died as a leper. Someone who started out so well, ends so poorly.
    - We watch as this Uzziah when he was strong, he gets caught up with pride, with transgression, and this king who had done so well for so many years falls short and the judgment of God falls on his life.
    - And there is an warning there for all of us, yes there is danger when you are down and out, yes there is danger before the battle and during the battle, but here we see that when Uzziah was strong and had peace and was prospered, his heart was lifted up to his destruction
      - David when kings go out to battle stayed at home.
      - Sampson in his strength playing with fire and on and on
    - When you have all that you have wanted and desired, you're serving in that ministry, you have the family and the job- be careful not to forget the God who gave all of that to you.
      - Don't make the mistake of Uzziah and let your heart be lifted up
- But that same year that this King Uzziah dies, Isaiah is caught up to heaven and sees an incredible scene.
- Isaiah 6:1-8 "In the year King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! For I am

undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said Lo, this hath touched thy lips: and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then Said I, here am I; send me.”

- I wonder, what was Isaiah thinking before he had this glimpse of heaven. In 2 Chronicle 26:22 says that the rest of the acts of Uzziah did Isaiah the prophet write. Makes me believe that Isaiah spent time with Uzziah. Probably was close with him. Might have even been there when he died in the latter years of his life.
  - If that was you, and all of sudden the king who has been on the throne your entire life, now has been smitten by God and now dies; there would be a lot of emotion going through your mind.
    - I wonder if he wrestled as Job and John the Baptist, as Mary and Martha did, wondering why God smote Uzziah. “Lord he was one of the good kings, he was trying to live for you, Lord yeah I know he messed up, but”
  - And then all of a sudden in the year King Uzziah dies, Isaiah has this vision.
- He sees God in all of his majesty and glory, the scene of the throne room of heaven, with angelic beings all around crying out “HOLY HOLY HOLY”.
  - “I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne”- God is on the throne, He is in control. I love when Bobby says it “oops is not in God’s vocabulary”
    - All of sudden Isaiah realizes the holiness of God. not just holy, not just holy holy, but its holy holy holy. Holy, holier, holiest.
      - God is so High and so lifted up and so separate more than we can imagine. We will say in the kingdom Revelation 15:3 “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!”
- God is all powerful, all knowing, all wise, and loves us more than we can imagine, He does all things well. Bobby is going to be going through Job on Wednesdays, and there comes a point where God questions Job after chapters of Job complaining
  - Essentially saying “Hey Job, where were you when I made the heavens and the earth? Where were you when I put the stars and planets in its place? Where were you when I made the different animals? Did I consult you? Did I need your help?”
    - And I love Job’s reaction Job 42:5-6 “I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”
    - Mike says it all the time “I think for the first million years when we get to heaven we will be walking around with our jaws hanging open, and everytime we see the Lord we will be doing the same thing as the cherubs- falling on our face and worshipping him.

- We just celebrated Easter and Good Friday, close your eyes and picture yourself in heaven, you're seeing what eyes were made to see, hearing what ears are made to hear, the colors the sights the sounds everything perfect and incredible.
- And then you see Jesus in His glory, clothed in white, the Lamb of God bearing the marks of slaughter, the wounds in his hands and feet, and you realize that the only reason that you are in heaven is because God loved you so much that He sent His own son to die in your place. And there is reality to that. Jesus left the splendors of heaven for you and I.
  - Think about the emotion, what else is there to say but Holy Holy, Holy, worthy is the Lamb to receive all honor wisdom glory and power. And to take your crown and to throw it at His feet.
- And that just starts to scratch the surface of who God is and how holy He is.
  - And Isaiah's reaction is "woe is me, I am undone" He didn't continue to proclaim woe on the people in the presence of God, he didn't get there and pull out his laundry list of prayer requests. He sees God in His glory and realizes that he is undone, that he is a sinner with an unclean mouth. and I think that is the place we all need to come to.
    - Understanding who we are and who God is. For chapters Isaiah had been going around proclaiming woes on everyone, and now that he sees God, he declares, woe is me.
  - The problem with us as Christians for the most part is that we have lost our reverence for God, for His word, for His holiness. Bobby says it all the time, He is God. Capitol G-O-D.
    - I heard one proclaimed Christian say that Jesus is God but there are many ways to heaven and that he didn't want to say that all other religions are wrong.
      - Others look at the word of God as suggestions, rather than commands. As Thus Saith the Lord.
      - He is Holy, set apart, High and lifted up, there is no other like him.
- Every person that had a vision or saw God in his glory, it says of them (Daniel- my comeliness/beauty turned into ashes, John- I fell down as a dead man)
- Because when we see God for who He is in all of His glory and majesty and power, we as the psalmist say "what is man that you are mindful of him", when we realize that He left all of that, the splendors of heaven to put on frail humanity and die on the cross because of love for you and I- that provokes us to live for him, God you gave everything for me, the least I can do is give you my life
  - Paul would say that is our reasonable service. It's only reasonable that we present our bodies as living sacrifices holy and acceptable to God.
- So what is the issue? What hinders us? Getting caught up in the day to day and prioritizing other things above the Lord, forgetting who He is, forgetting what He has done for us, forgetting who we were before Christ.
  - How do we guard against losing our reverence? How do we keep these incredible truths from becoming common?
    - By sitting with the Lord, by being in love with Jesus. The Psalmist said in Psalm 27:4 "One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I

may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.”

- You are not worried about the edge or the line when you are in love with Jesus and walking with him. You don't want to do anything to even grieve Him!
  - So very quickly we covered that holiness starts with an understanding of who God is, and who we are in light of that. Sinners saved by grace

But the next step for those of who serve and come close, there is a higher standard and a need to be set apart.

- Leviticus 10:3 NKJV “And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’” So Aaron held his peace.
- Leviticus 10:3 NLT “Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD meant when he said, ‘I will display my holiness through those who come near me. I will display my glory before all the people.’” And Aaron was silent.”
  - Both translations: I must be regarded as holy by those who come near me, and I will display my holiness through those who come near me. All of us should want to come near to God and be used by the Lord, but understand that you must regard Him as Holy, and you will be an example to those around you. For example turn to-

Turn to Numbers 20:2-13

- The children of Israel are complaining again, but this is a different generation, these are the children of those who were slaves. Many of them had not even seen Egypt and yet they were all chips off the old block. And provoked Moses and instead of speaking to the rock, Moses struck the rock twice and water came out
- But God speaks to Moses and says Numbers 20:12 “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”
  - Moses had faithfully led the people for 40 years, and yet here he did not hallow or sanctify the Lord in the eyes of the people. What did he do? He said “hear now ye rebels; must we fetch you water from this rock?” and started smacking the rock, almonds and flowers flying everywhere.
    - Who was Moses to the people? God's spokesperson, his representative. So they thought that God thought that they were rebels and was angry with them. Moses misrepresented God.
      - And God pulls Moses aside, and tells him hey bud you are not going into the promised land. Moses tries to bring it up again in Deuteronomy with God
- Deuteronomy 3:23-27 ““At that time I pleaded with the LORD and said, ‘O Sovereign LORD, you have only begun to show your greatness and the strength of your hand to me, your servant. Is there any god in heaven or on earth who can perform such great and mighty deeds as you do? Please let me cross the Jordan to see the wonderful land on the other side, the beautiful hill country and the Lebanon mountains.’ “But the LORD was angry with me because of you, and he would not listen to me. ‘That's enough!’ he

declared. 'Speak of it no more. But go up to Pisgah Peak, and look over the land in every direction. Take a good look, but you may not cross the Jordan River.'

- Reminds me of Paul saying in 1 Corinthians 9:27 "But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
  - You want to serve? Understand that as a christian, and even more so as a servant, you are representing the Lord Jesus Christ. What you say, what you do, how you react, it all is sending a message.
    - Now we don't have to worry about losing our salvation, Jesus said never will I leave you or forsake you. But I want to finish well. I don't want to disqualify myself. Knowing that there is an adversary who is looking for opportunities to disqualify me and you.
- So where do I land? 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
- Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Something I wrote down- Holiness is a commitment, a life long posture of choosing to live for the Lord

- I love the phrase "Reconsecrate your consecration. rededicate your dedication". Most things are not like our salvation, once you confess and believe your in. one and done. I find that I have to come back to the altar, and consecrate myself over and over again
  - God I'm walking with you today, I'm purposing in my heart to be set apart, to be holy. Today right now while i'm willing im all yours.
  - Because we are fickle, we drift. Our heart is dectiefly wicked above all else. Which brings me to my last point

We all will constantly fall short

- Every one of us is a sinner saved by grace, and sinless perfection is just a dream on this side of eternity. Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:15 "This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."
  - Not that I was the chief of all sinners, but that I am the chief. Paul continued to write in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" i heard one pastor say that the tenses are "continually come short".
  - John the apostle wrote in his gospel "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"
- The goal and the desire is to be holy and that is and should be the tenure and the posture of our life.
  - But everyone of us will fail and fall short. You will say things you shouldn't have and mess up and fall. I think a lot of things are avoidable, but this is earth not heaven.

- What we have to remember is to run to throne of grace, asking Him for help.
- Asking the Lord to wash us and purify us and never lose that desire to be holy and pure and set apart for the masters use

## Conclusion

- There are a handful, not many but a few examples in the bible who didn't completely mess everything up, who finished well. Joseph, Samuel, Daniel, Nehemiah, their mistakes are not recorded for us, makes me hope that they never made massive blunders like David or Sampson.
  - There is Peter who even after the resurrection, and pentecost, had to be rebuked openly by Paul because he was causing some to stumble
    - There was Paul who was dragged before the sanhedrin and let his tongue lose and said "God will strike you, you white walled tomb!" but finished his course well.
  - I want to finish well, I don't want to be disqualified, I look up to a Joseph, and a Samuel, to a Caleb who even at the end of his life wanted to take ground for the Lord. Those who believed young and kept going into their old age.
    - Like Daniel purposing in their hearts to honor God and not defile themselves.
    - And that's where I am landing the plane, as you all have the desire to serve in ministry, purpose in your heart, make a vow before God to be holy, to be set apart, living for the Lord
      - Like Job not looking upon the young maidens with your eyes, not to take money when no one is looking, to be faithful in your service, in your marriage and to your kids.
  - Purpose that in your heart that you are going to live for the Lord, that the tenure and the posture of your life is one of pursuing God and being Holy, not looking for where the line in the sand is to see how close you can get to it.
  - 2 Timothy 2:20-21 "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."