



Set Apart: Part 1

February 4, 2024

Holiness: Goodness, powerful, life-giving, set apart

Exodus 3:2-5

2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." 4 When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. 5 "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground."

Holiness is dangerous

Holiness is like the Sun: life-giving and powerful, but dangerous.

Fear of the LORD. God is good, but His holiness moves us to a holy reverence.

Entering into God's Presence requires ritual purity.

Touching something impure transfers its impurity onto us.

Isaiah 6:1-8

1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. 2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" 4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. 5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the

altar with a pair of tongs. 7 He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven." 8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Touching the holy coal transferred its purity onto Isaiah.

Matthew 8:2-3

2 Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.

Jesus transfers his purity to the leper.

Jesus transfers his purity to you
Through baptism
Through communion

Jesus has set you apart.

REFLECTIONS

1. Is the idea of entering into God's presence scary? Why?
2. Read Isaiah 6:1-8. What sticks out to you in this crazy story? What does it teach you?
3. Have you been baptized? If so, what does it mean to you? If not, take a minute to pray over if this would be something you would consider.
4. How does it feel to know that Jesus has made you pure? Will this cause you to live differently?