**ROAD TRIP! Wk 3: Holy Moly! A set apart life.**

**Have you ever seen or heard of (farmersonly.com)? A farmers online dating service. Funny commercials – several end with “city folks don’t get it.” If God had a commercial about today’s sermon – it might end with – “human folk don’t get it.” God does not our box.**

**We have been talking about knowing and walking in God’s will for our life. Living the off-road adventure life with Jesus.**

**Philippians 2:** **14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, (attitude) 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, (lifestyle) “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life.**

**I want to shine! HOW? v.14,15 says - in our attitude & lifestyle.**

**Something not talked about often - will of God for how we live**

**1 Peter 1:15 But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (repeated over and over in Scripture)**

**\* What does it mean to be HOLY? Do you desire holiness?**

**Bible says God is holy (if that means perfect) How can we be perfect? Well, we can’t – that seems unfair for God to ask us, if we can’t!**

**But it’s not unrealistic or unfair – once we understand what it means for God to be Holy - and what it means for us to be Holy**

**Let’s read Isaiah 6. Isaiah got a peek / glimpse of the throne**

**Isaiah 6:1** **In the year that King Uzziah died, (Places it in a real historical context) I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; (King Uzziah died during chaos & tragedy – where was God? On the throne and still in charge!) and the train of his robe filled the temple. (longer the robe – the greater the authority / position) 2 Above him were seraphim, (burning ones - shining) each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, (expresess awe before God) with two they covered their feet, (expresses humility) and with two they were flying. (expresses a ready willingness)**

**3 And they were calling to one another: (not addressing God, but declaring to each other) “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD (divine name Yahweh) Almighty; (Lord of strength and power) the whole earth is full of his glory.” (glory is abundantly clear all around us!) 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook (rattled entire room!) and the temple was filled with smoke. (His Glory)**

**First thing to realize is this:**

**1. God is Holy - it’s his #1 Attribute**

**Holy is a loaded word (all kinds of things come to mind) – layered = it’s literal definition is:**

**To be distinctly different/ set apart/ separate/ sacred / It means a class of his own – there is no competition or rival**

**What a Beautiful Name (Hillsong): You have no rival, You have no equal / Now and forever, Our God reigns / Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory / Yours is the Name, above all names / What a powerful Name it is / What a powerful Name it is / The Name of Jesus Christ my King! (I wanna shout!)**

**God is in every way separate, different, and transcendent**

**Ex 15:11 – Who is like you O LORD? No one**

**1 Sam 2:2 – There is no one like the LORD, there is no one like you!**

**Only one word is repeated 3X - in 3 places in Bible (Danial, Isaiah, Rev.) the word is Holy - God is called “Holy, Holy, Holy” - 3X represents a definitive absolute – highest matter – most important – an emphasis**

**R. C. Sproul - makes this insightful observation - “The Bible says that God is holy, holy, holy. Not that He is merely holy, or even holy, holy. He is holy, holy, holy. The Bible never says that God is love, love, love, or mercy, mercy, mercy, or wrath, wrath, wrath, or justice, justice, justice. It does say that He is holy, holy, holy, the whole earth is full of His glory.**

**John saw the throne of God - Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."**

**God is letting us know – I don’t fit your paradigm. When you think of this life – and so called other gods – remember - I am nothing like it. I am Holy, I am different - I am not like you! You may never full understand who I am and what I think.**

**I love diff - deal out justice diff – think diff – etc.**

**Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**God is set apart from humanity in essence and nature, the divine! He is not simply smarter, he is all knowing! We are finite, he is the infinite! This defines all he is and does – his entire being! HOLY!**

**So, you walk in here thinking you’re going to figure out Yahweh – you already missed it. He is HOLY.**

**(We speak of finding our self-esteem in God, but when Isaiah encounters the holiness of God it causes him to say…) 6:5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! (I am done for) 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.”**

**2. You are not holy**

**(Romans 5:7-8, 5:12-19, 11:32, 3:23, 3:10-12, 2 Chron 6:36, Is 53:6, 1 John 1:8-10, Mark 10:18/ Luke 18:19, Ps 143:2, Mark 7:21-23, Ps 5:9, Jer 17:9, 10:7-8,14, Titus 1:15-16, Ecc 9:3, Matthew 15:19, Pro 28:26, Ps 51:5, 58:3, Is 64:7)**

**Isaiah understood his depravity before the almighty Holy God. He was not arrogant with his own significance or opportunity. He cried out as he became aware of his own sin. He knew he was in a dangerous place.**

**To be in his presence is to be in awe… How could a holy, perfect, righteous God look upon me and invite me to come into his presence?**

**When was the last time you were stunned in silence in his presence – blown away and broken at his holiness?**

**This is not a bad place to be – to understand Our depravity! Our need! Our dilemma! This is known as conviction of the HS. (Spurgeon) “God will never do anything with us till he has first of all undone us.”**

**Which leads back to - 1 Peter 1:16 “Be holy, because I am holy.” How can we be holy since we are wicked to the core? Is this even possible?**

**Isaiah gives us the answer next - God provides a way… Is 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs (still burning coal) from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”**

**The throne – with power and authority was made for God**

**The altar - was made for us. It is where we find cleansing.**

**Jesus the fully revealed God of the O.T. provides the way – through the altar. That fire – that coal – that altar = represents the cross of Christ!**

**3. You are made holy by Jesus**

**As the painful and freeing touch of the burning fire of God’s grace touched his lips (ie. confession) he was clean before God.**

**We are told that God accepts us unconditionally. The problem is, that’s not a biblical concept. Just the opposite. We are born dead in sin and are by that, we are enemies of God - deserving judgment**

**We are not unconditionally accepted by God. BUT – God accepts us only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!**

**Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners (enemies of God), Christ died for us.**

**2 Corinthians 5:21 that is was “For our sake he made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”**

**It is not our actions or the simple fact that we breathe that causes God to accept us. God accepts us thru what he provides. Found at the altar!**

**Thru that acceptance – we can love and welcome others.**

**Looking to the throne of the unexplainable, righteous, transcendent, Holy God – takes us to places of humility, awe, and thankfulness. Our worship moves beyond songs to a broken adoration – and surrender!**

**As we see next – Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” (trinity) And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”**

**The response to the holiness & provision of God is obedience**

**4. You are to live a holy life (you are holy – now be holy)**

**We are set apart – we are now different – and called to be different**

**Obedience is the response to a life of surrender to God**

**The entire OT temple process was all about a washing away of sins so we could stand before the throne (seat) of God the Ark. To get to that throne! Sacrifices, cleansing, brokenness – it’s a picture of the cross.**

**Hebrews 10: (speaking of the cross of Jesus and the old temple system) 10 For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. (Heb 4:14-16 - We can now boldly approach the throne)**

**That was the plan all along – for us thru Jesus to be able to be in relationship our Holy God again. And to live a holy life in response.**

**It is this holiness in Jesus – that produces obedience – our response.**

**1 Peter 1:13 So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. (time to get serious about this) Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. 14 So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then.**

**15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 16 For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”**

**17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him (humility before God) during your time here as “temporary residents.” (this life) 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.**

**How we live matters to God – How we live reflects the cross of Jesus! How we live is the key to shining like a star in the sky!**

**Holiness *(being different)* is our calling**

**(Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; 1 John 2:3-6, Col 3:5-14,1 Thessalonians 4:1-5, 1 Peter 2:9-12, 2 Tim 2:19-26, Ephesians 4:17-23, Rom 8:19-30 - Thru Jesus we destined to be conformed into the image of God)**

**Because we are Holy (diff) - We love diff (love those east to love and hard to love – even our enemies) We deal justly diff (we care for those who not only deserve it, but for those who do not also) We think diff (than pop culture and trends) We spend $ diff (church/ missions/ projects) Do marriage diff (how we act and operate) Parent Diff.**

**God says be different / separate for I am diff / separate. Those who are not mine don’t get me – they won’t get you either.**

* + - **Loving + Holiness = Attractiveness**

**5. You are given a Holy assignment (a road trip)**

**In understanding the Holiness of God, we begin to understand the purpose, plan and will of God!**

**Is 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send? (Who will represent me?) And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”**

**God then uses Isaiah to uniquely bring His word to Israel**

**Whom shall I send means that the missionary, the Christian worker, a mom, dad, son, daughters, the student, the witness of Jesus Christ, is sent. The divine commission is accomplished. The Road Trip of Life!**

**When we look at Isaiah’s vision of the throne of God**

**Notice three things there is:**

* **An *Awareness* of who God is – holy and in awe**
* **An *Attitude* of our heart – humility / brokenness / forgiveness**
* **An *Action* in our life (A response) – obedience**

**Isaiah had a (1) Vision of God (2) Vision of Self (3) Vision of the Lost**

**His responses – I saw, I looked, I heard, I cried… I said… Here I am!**

**Send me on the Road Trip of a lifetime!**

**3 movements (a)journey upward (b) journey inward (c) journey outward**

**How do I know my part in this? I am a Christian. But I struggle to hear God? How do I know what God has for me?**

**Romans 12:1** **(NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. (He want’s your heart and body = how we live) Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. (reasonable response / act of worship) 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.**

**How do we understand God’s will for our life?**

**By changing the way we live and changing the way we think.**

**\* Understanding the Road Trip ahead is tied to obedience**

**Are you having a hard time hearing God? How are you living? We are saved thru Jesus alone. This is not about salvation, this is about hearing God on the road trip of life.**

**2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, (meaning this will never change) sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” (we may not know, but the Lord knows – speaks to our salvation) and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” (speaks to our way of life)**

**Paul goes on to day that when we obey God and turn from sinful behavior, God uses us in special ways**

**But Ted – I am too far gone. I’ve done too much. I could never stand before God – God could never use me…**

**Isaiah gives us a great reminder - Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, (this boundless, unexplainable, righteous, transcendent, Holy God on the throne of eternity is…) And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit. In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

**He is there (heaven) – and he is here – in this room – to revive the broken in spirit.**

**How to I approach this Holy God – Thru Jesus.**

**1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he (Jesus) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

**The one and only Holy God of all creation, is calling you. Come!**

**LIFE TEAM:**

**Life team**

**2 Tim 2:19-26**

**Three Reasons For Our Set Apart / Different Life - Because of**

1. **Who** he is
2. **What** he’s done
3. **Whose** we are