



October 6, 2024

Be: Holy

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-16

Big Idea: God is Holy, we are made Holy, and we are now tasked to be Holy.

The Challenge: God is Holy. This holiness is not a moralistic framework that is attributed to Him. Rather, He is simply other. He is unique, outside the created order and beyond conception. This makes Him Holy – wholly other. We, called to be holy, are meant to live lives that are wholly other, set apart for him. This requires resiliency, grit, determination to live lives that are go against the grain of society head waters – but it's what points them toward Jesus.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: “Lord, you are holy. There is none like you. As you ambassadors, you call us to be Holy, to be set apart. Help us, your people, to live lives that reflect you.

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Is safe to assume that the Church in the west functions in a post Christian context, if not maybe even pre-Christian. The Church should expect it to be challenged. It's going to be hard, and arguably will get harder. The question should not be when it is going to get easier, but rather what posture does the church take in the inevitable challenges.
 - How has His bride survived so much in its history? What has sustained us?
 - How do we feel the social, political, and interpersonal pressures today?
- 2) Isaiah 6 is one of most beautiful passages describing the throne room of God and it is there that the angels repeat “Holy, Holy, Holy”. To be Holy is to be set apart and sacred. To call Him holy, it acknowledged that He is simply other, He is unique, outside the created order, pure and beyond all words
 - What have been your conceptions or misconception of holiness?
 - In light of the definition of Holy how does this change our perceptions of:
 - God's character and His actions throughout history?
 - Those things that He calls Holy (Holy mountain, Holy Temple, Holy Nation, Holy Scriptures, Holy Spirit?)
 - Reading Ex 3:5, how does this apply to the apply to the modern Christian?
- 3) Peter encourages the church and acknowledges that they have suffered trials of many kinds (v7). We know that there was public persecution as this church, but he encourages them reminding them of the “inexpressible and glorious joy” (v9). There is a “grit-iness” that he Peter is calling out in them based on their assurance of salvation.
 - What does it mean to have Grit? How is grit different in Christian context?
 - How do we foster grit as Christians?
 - How does this speak to Christian witness of the Gospel?
- 4) “No – be holy as I am holy”. This directive comes directly from Lev 19:2 to Israel surrounded by the nations they were called to be a light to. Holiness is the call to be different, to be set

apart. We are called to Social Holiness and Personal Holiness – both are needed in the kingdom.

- How was Israel set apart from all the nations? What does a life marked by Holiness look like?
- Why was Jesus so hard on the pharisees in Matt 23:27?
- How does this compare with James 1:14-20?
- What is the challenge with works-based righteousness on contrast to showing our faith in our deeds as James talks about?
- What does a life marked by holiness look like for the modern Christian?