

**The Redeemed Christian Church of God  
House of David, Ogudu-Ojota. Lagos.  
Nigeria.**

**Topic: “Whom shall I send”? “Here I am; Send me”.**

**Text: Isaiah 6: 1-13.**

**Introduction:**

- **Congratulations for the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church.**
- **Appreciation for the invite to speak at the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the great church.**
- **Appreciation especially to the Area Pastor, the Ministers and the congregation for their support and generous giving in the last one year to CLA, Oxford.**
- **Greetings from Christ’s Love Assembly in Barton, Oxford.**
- **The topic for the day appears to be the most topical for a church that wants to remain focused around the essence of its existence and I do hope that we are able to do justice to the topic and it will not just add to our**

**head knowledge; but will serve to make us “fit for purpose” in the service of our master.**

**From the passage we read, it was obvious that the Lord was trying to commission a project and he needed someone that would be fit for that purpose. The Lord is always eager to do something; but He needs someone that he will use to accomplish His objective and His purpose. In Jeremiah 51:20-23, the Lord emphasized how much he needs us and that he can only do what remains to be done within the scheme of Redemption through us.**

**T**he prophet Isaiah writes, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up..." (Isaiah 6:1). In the rest of **CHAPTER SIX**, Isaiah speaks three times in response to the things he sees and hears in his vision. His words express the innermost and deepest feelings of every dedicated child of God.

## **1. Then I said, "Woe is me for I am undone!" (v.5)**

The seraphim cried out in praise of the holiness and glory of the Lord. Isaiah felt his own unworthiness, a man of

unclean lips among many. But one of the seraphim touched his lips with a burning coal from the altar and said, "Your iniquity is taken away and your sin is purged."

This symbolizes the pain of Jesus Christ to whom we may come for forgiveness. Our feelings of unworthiness should be of the humble sort, not feelings of hopelessness. As another symbol, the LORD's presence and robe filled the temple. Even now the Lord Jesus is our High priest and Advocate in the true tabernacle (1Jn 2:1-2 Heb 7:24-26).

Although unworthy, so very unworthy, we have been forgiven, accepted by the Lord God. And we shall see his glory. What the Lord does is to take His vessels and cleanse them before they are used (2Tim 2:19-21).

Who are the people that the Lord wants to use:

The must be FAT:

Faithful – "Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful".

Available – Ready to whenever duty demands – 1 Kings 19:19-21.

Teachable – Mk. 3: 13 -14. Jesus took time to teach and empower before they were sent out.

## **2. Then I said, "Here am I, Send me!" (v. 8)**

The Lord was grieved that there seemed to be no one to speak his word to a blind and apostate people. But Isaiah

volunteers, and the Lord accepts. We often feel overwhelmed in a world of ungodliness and ignorance. It is very easy to say, "What can I do? What difference can I make?"

Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). When God says today, "Who will go for us?" will we reply, "Here am I, send me"? Paul asks, "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14). Will we reply, "Here am I, send me"? In fact he has sent us --you and me.

Notice too that Isaiah offers himself. He does not say, "Here WE are, send US." It's a personal and individual commitment. We shouldn't wait for others. Each of us has opportunities to go and speak for God. Spreading God's word does not require any major organization, just individual willingness and effort to seize personal opportunities on a daily basis. It's easy to speak of "WE" and "US", because it shifts the responsibility away from "I" and "ME". It is also very easy for us to assign some advisory roles for ourselves and say: Lord, send Brothers and Sister XYZ and we shall be helping his/her with prayers. It reminds me of a book I read at a time. There were this very zealous people praying in the church during a very important prayer meeting and traditionally there is this brother whose way of praying is: "Lord, use me, use me, in some advisory capacity." The Lord wants to use us personally, doing the work.

### 3. Then I said, "Lord, how long?" (v.11)

There seemed to be a bleak future. The Lord God speaks with bitter sarcasm. "Tell the people to keep on hearing, yet not understand! Make their ears heavy, lest they hear and understand and be healed!" (Of course the Lord wanted them to hear and understand, but they were too stupid and stubborn, and he is chiding them).

Yet there are people here who will hear, whose ears will hear and whose heart will understand. We must help the Lord to seek and save such as these.

Isaiah was really asking, "How patient and persistent must I be?" The Lord replies that Isaiah should work until the end, until the land is desolate, for among all the despair and desolation there was the holy seed. Likewise we must press on until the very end, until the final destruction of the world (2Pet. 3:10-15). What it means is that the job is not going to be easy. There will be discouragement. For those of us in Europe, it would seem we are wasting out time. If you look at most of our churches, it seems it is just the gathering of Nigerians but here in Verse 13, Isaiah was told that a time of reward will come.

For churches that support missionaries abroad, the question that may be asked is: how long do we keep supporting? The tenth shall return, the lofty in heart will return to the Lord. We are enjoined not to give up.

## Summary

The three words of Isaiah are...

- The word of **HUMILITY**, "Woe is me for I am undone,"
- The word of **COURAGE**, "Here I am send me", and
- The word of **COMMITMENT**, "Lord, how long?"

These are words from the past that should live on our tongues today. If we would like to be people of clean lips, what better can we do than say these words to God, and go and tell his word to others?

We are saying to God, "I don't feel worthy to represent you, but I am willing --use me Lord, for as long as you need to".

I think I should make clear that when we are answering: use me, use me Lord, we have to understand that it is the endowment He has put in us that He will use. Just like to story of the talent; God does not ask us to manage what we are not suitable to manage. We don't need to beat ourselves over what we are not able to do. His grace is sufficient for every assignment he gives us to handle. He is not a task master. It is what is in hand that the Lord uses. He will not ask us to use what we don't have. What is important then is to ask: what I have I got? What are the things the Lord has put in my life that He is coming back to use? It calls for soul searching and I pray that the Lord will help us to be fit for His use in Jesus name.

This message was delivered at the House of David, a Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Ogudu-Ojota on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008.