TIME FOR CONFESSION

TRANSCRIPT
CALEB

When I think about confession my mind is always drawn to that picture in the book of Isaiah. You might remember the scene where he has a vision of the Lord sitting on the throne with the seraphim—these flaming ones whatever that looked like—and they're crying out, “Holy, holy, holy.” And Isaiah was standing in the presence of God, and the temple began to fill with smoke and began to shake in this violent earthquake. And he responds with, “Woe is me for I am undone.”

That word *undone* there is particularly interesting to me. *Damah* is in the Hebrew. And it not only means to be ruined, to be undone, but it also means to be silent. And I think about a prophet of the people of God being silent in the presence of God when he beholds who He is. But more importantly, though, that word is used by prophets in terms of comparison.

So Isaiah stands before the Lord. He sees who God is, and he compares himself to God. And he realizes, “Oh boy, I'm shutting up, because I'm nothing like who You are or who I even thought You were.” But then he has this beautiful confession. “My lips have been unclean surrounded by people who are unclean, but somehow my eyes have seen the beauty of who God is.” And he simply says in many ways, “God, I'm not sorry for just what I've done but for who I am. And only against You have I offended.”

REFLECTION

And I think about this scene with fresh insight recently with the storms that have come through. Storms can be frightening at times. You hide hunkered down in your basement—your dank basement—maybe your flooding basement. It starts to get dark. Thunder rumbles your foundation. Wind snaps against our windows. And then the water overflows our gutters maybe. And then I stop to think as I'm hunkered down there that I worship a God who's even in control of that. And all those storms are scary at times. I can fully submit to a God who is in complete control of them, and He is in complete control of my life and who I am if only I submit to Him

And when I hear the thunder in the presence of God, my ears behold a holy God. So yes, today we confess. We don't simply confess by who we wish we were, but we confess because we know who God is, and our eyes have beheld Him. So we confess that God is good.

> *“God, You are good today, and sometimes we are evil. God, we confess today that You are holy, and we are often impure. We confess to You today, God, that You are*

love and we are sometimes selfish. We confess today, God, that You are strong, and we are sometimes weak. We confess that You God are merciful, and we are often stingy. And we confess, God, that You are peace, and we are often afraid. And we say to You God today only against you have we have sinned, not by just what we have done, but by who we are."

And when we do, we realize that we've opened the door not to only receive forgiveness, but transformation. And God comes just as He did for Isaiah. He touches us, and we're cleansed and we're made new again. We know who we're not, but we also know today who God is. And He will begin to fill us with His goodness, His holiness, His love, His strength, His mercy, and His character today. And we not only confess to give away, but we confess to receive. And in His presence we are all undone.

PRAYER

So let us pray:

Father, we love You today. We hunger for more of You. We praise You, and we honor You, God, for how beautiful and lovely and pure You are. May we all stand in your presence today, God, and confess all the ways that we are unlike You, God. Not in shame, but in hope knowing that You will fill us with Your character, Your goodness today, God. We love You, and we praise You, and we honor You in Your presence today. In Jesus' name. Amen