**Isaiah 6:1-8**

**6In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” 4The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.**

**5And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” 6Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” 8Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”**

**Luke 5:1-11**

**5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” 5Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 8But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”9For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” 11When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.**

**Title: Calling and Response.**

**When we come into worship, it is not like we pass from one reality into another, leaving our issues at the door. We came as we are, but, consider, it as being a little like “pressing pause” on our lives for this time? In this time of worship, we pause, take a step back and examine our lives from the perspective of what God is doing in us, among us, through us. This is a unique time of the week. Times spent with God in personal devotions, bible study, home group, listening to blogs or however we shape our daily walk with God are different to meeting together with a whole congregation of people who are all devoted to one thing – worshipping, bending the knee, bowing in adoration and surrender to the lover of our souls.**

**Let’s pause, step back and look at what god is saying to us.**

**God calls us: It means, He knows us and has plans for our lives. It means, God is a God who communicates with us in unique but clear ways.**

**God calls us; at work, while we worship; really it might be anywhere, at any time. Sometimes it might be through a dramatic vision, in high definition colour with intense detail and perfect surround sound. Sometimes it might be as simple as a single, quiet word. God’s call changes the direction of our lives. God’s call changes the way we see life and our place in it.**

**God calls at different times: it might be at a crucial point in history, or it might be in the midst of ordinary life.**

**Isaiah: Isaiah was in the temple, at worship, when he saw the Lord, high and lifted up and the train of his robe filled the temple, and there were cherubim – angels all around – it was high-viz, with surround sound, better than any movie theatre the foundations shook and the sanctuary filled with smoke – if that happened at the Monterey everyone would have to evacuate!**

**Isaiah’s vision came at a pivotal time in history. In the year king Uzziah died. In modern day terms, God’s calling might come: in the year that Brexit died, or, the year Trump had his wall built, or, in the 90th year of the reign of Elizabeth the second – she’s going to go on forever isn’t she?**

**Uzziah was a faithful king who had reigned for many years, bringing stability to the land. While he reigned, God held back from allowing other nations to move on Jerusalem and take it. But now, Uzaiah the faithful King had died: uncertainty, what would come now? Stability was threatened, protection was not guaranteed. Isaiah’s calling was to exhort the people to live faithful lives, while giving warnings about what would happen if they didn’t: his message can be summarized by these words from Isaiah 1:**

**18‘Come now, let us settle the matter,’
    says the Lord.
‘Though your sins are like scarlet,
    they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
    they shall be like wool.
19If you are willing and obedient,
    you will eat the good things of the land;
20but if you resist and rebel,
    you will be devoured by the sword.’
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

**So, Isaiah’s call was pretty dramatic: he saw the Lord as the one true King. His response was to cry out: “Woe is me! I am lost,”  The movie could have be called dead man walking. Some believed that no one saw the Lord and lived. Confronted with the angelic proclamation of: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory”, Isaiah saw himself as anything but holy. I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!**

**But he didn’t die, an angel took a hot coal and purified his lips, preparing the way for his ministry and so when God called – whom shall I send? He responded – here I am send me.**

**Peter, James and John. Their calling was quite different. They were in the midst of an ordinary day, doing their ordinary work when Jesus wandered by and a crowd of people with him. There’s something about this story which I love. The picture is painted for us so well, a crowd of people pressing in on Jesus. Jesus preparing to teach. The custom was you sat to teach. He needed a platform where people could see and hear him from and so he commandeered Peter’s boat. Here are Peter, James, John and their workers, cleaning their nets, readying them for another day, as they did day after day. They weren’t a part of the crowd, but presumably they were in earshot of this Jesus.**

**But the teaching of Jesus to the crowd was not the main thing. We’re given no information about what Jesus taught on that day. The narrative moved on. After the teaching had finished, the crowd thinned and Jesus said: ‘let’s go fishing.’ If I’m picking fishermen, fishing was probably their career and also their passion, so even if it wasn’t time for fishing, they’d love to jump into their boats and get out on the water.**

**Their catch was huge, 2 boats, Peter, James. John and all their workers can’t handle it. But their response is not – hey James – what a lot of filleting and drying we’ve got to do, nor was it wow, this will set up our families for months, what a gold-rush we’ve hit on. The response from Peter, was one of fear. He moved to distance himself from Jesus who had caused this great haul.**

**Just like Isaiah had cried out – oh I’ve had it now, I’m in the presence of God, but I’m a sinful man in a sinful nation, Peter, fell down at Jesus’ knees: “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” Neither Isaiah nor Peter realized at that time, that God was with them in all His holiness and power and it was alright, nothing bad was going to happen to them. In-fact God was going to use them as they were, warts and all.**

**All the men onboard the two boats were amazed at what happened, and although there were more people there, than Peter, James and John, the true purpose for the day emerged – Jesus zoned in on these three and called them. Now you will be fishing for people.**

**Note their response: There wasn’t any: ‘oh, well I’ll just go and check with my wife’ from Peter, or ‘we’d better discuss work options for the business with our father Zebedee’ from James and John; they left what they were doing – and immediately followed.**

**Perspective – the call of Jesus changed the way they saw the purpose of their lives. They were fishermen, that’s how they lived, that’s how they provided for their families. But now Jesus re-framed their lives. Now you’ll fish for people. It once was all about the fish, now it was all about people. It was once about how much money they could earn, now it was about the souls and destinies of those they lived with and met along the road.**

**For us – Jesus takes a negative view and re-visions us. Peter and Isaiah: ‘ah I’m done-for, because I am a sinful person.’ God re-framed their lives. ‘Yes you might be that, but Isaiah, I’m going to use you now you are a prophet, my mouthpiece to the people, and Peter, now you are a fisher of people.’ Both Isaiah and Peter, were scared in the presence of the vision of God and of Jesus in the boat. God says to us you don’t have to be afraid of me or my plans for you.**

**The purpose of God lifts us, it gives us focus and direction. Even though they had left all to follow Jesus, for most of the time especially in the early stages of his ministry, they still lived in their homes and went fishing most days. Although its fair to say that Jesus did a whole lot more than the scriptures give us, even so, Jesus wasn’t out on the road with them all the time. However, now they fished, not just because it was their duty, but because their calling was to fish for people and catching fish provided the means to be able to do this.**

**Our Context: we live in Aotearoa New Zealand. We live with a unique Treaty as the basis of our living here. God’s call comes to us in the midst of a bi-cultural commitment and a reality of living among many different cultures, worldviews and religious belief systems.**

**While sometimes God calls us out of what we regularly do, more often, our calling comes to us a within our ordinary lives. Can we see, driving people to different places as a part of God’s calling? Can we see, caring or this person or that as a part of God’s plan? The music you’ve been given, the creativity, your ability from the computer keyboard or in the office. These are gifts given to us to be able to fulfil our calling. When we set out on the journey of following Jesus, every bit of our lives becomes a part of his plan and purpose for us.**

**So we ask. What is your calling? In what way is it being re-focused for you at this time?**

**Isaiah had a calling on his life and Peter had one on his, these didn’t change, but the specifics of their calling developed over time. So, it was about following on faithfully through every twist and turn of life.**

**Do you hear God calling you to something new or different?**

**Sometimes there are abrupt changes in our lives, sometimes God does reveal a plan or a purpose we haven’t seen ourselves in.**

**Lastly – Isaiah responded, Here I am Lord send me. Peter, James and john, left everything to go with Jesus. Will we listen and obey the voice of God, however it comes to us – in bright lights or in a tiny small whisper. Will we listen and will we say ok yes lord here I am I’ll go with you?**

**Just one more thing. Those whom God calls, God equips. Jesus walked with Peter and co for three and a half years, modelling a ministry. God took a hot burning coal and purified Isaiah’s lips. He made him ready. We do not need to fear saying yes to God’s call because, God will provide what we need, when we need it.**

**Pause – what is God saying to you today? [PPT]**

**What is your calling? In what way is it being re-focused for you at this time?**

**Do you hear God calling you to something new or different?**

**Here I am Lord send me. Peter, James and john, left everything to go with Jesus. Will we listen and obey the voice of God and will we say ‘ok, yes lord here I am I’ll go with you?’**

**How is God equipping you for his calling?**

**Prayer of response**