

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January  
Rob Woodhams  
Isaiah 6

### Looking Beyond The Gatehouse

Uzziah became king when he was sixteen years old, read about his life in 2 Chronicles 26; He proved to be a successful king in all that he did. He won battles, built vital structures, invented needed appliances, he oversaw farms and herds and the planting of crops, his rule was very prosperous.

Read through verses 4-5, here the Holy Spirit shows us how this was made possible for him.

Q1. How can we learn from his early years so that our lives are prosperous for the LORD?

But then came disaster, peace came to an end; look at verse 16, *'When he was strong he grew proud, to his destruction for he was false to the LORD his God'*

His heart posture had changed from focusing on the LORD, to seeing himself as the centre of his success. **He had puffed up his heart with pride.** Which was Satan's and then Adam's rebellious downfall. It made him very angry when the priests stopped him. As Rob made clear to us he had lowered his horizon, he had limited his worship to himself.

Q2. How can we avoid falling into this trap? use Romans 2.29 and Philippians 3.3 to help as a check on our lives?

Isaiah looked beyond the tribulation that was coming upon Israel, he saw that they had the form of religion, but not the heart that worshipped Christ. John informs us that as Isaiah worshipped in the temple he saw the glory of Jesus Christ, it was life changing for him. John 12.41

Rob described to us his journey to see the Taj Mahal; Because of the mist he viewed the spectacular gate house but nothing more. He needed Tony to take him beyond the entrance to see the true splendour, though on that occasion the mist spoilt the view.

Too often as individuals or a church fellowship, we can get caught up with immediate circumstances. When we do that we fail to realize that Christ is inviting us to go deeper with Him. He wants us to enter the riches of His glory, the abundance of grace, the flood of His love. Through the Holy Spirit filling and guiding us we can enter into and worship Christ in ever deepening wonder. There was one aspect that impressed on Sunday.

We are like a bottle of champagne; the cork must be popped out to enjoy the drink. We must seek God asking that the Holy Spirit might release us into His best that is still to be revealed and entered into to His glory. Can I encourage you to ask another Tony to lead you into the greater splendour that is there for all of us as sons of glory. Give yourself to worship Christ in every circumstance of your life and walk with Him in the joy of His inheritance. Romans 12.1-3; Luke 6.38