



... when you need a break from the daily grind



KING OF GLORY

#3 of 5: *The compassion of the king*

➤ **READY TO GO**

We live in a celebrity culture. It seems as if everyone either wants to be a celebrity or follows the lives of celebrities with fascination. Isaiah had all the makings of a celebrity. He had an amazing experience of God which few were privileged to have. He had seen and heard heavenly things. He could have thought to himself that this would make him famous. When people heard about it they would want his autograph and read his life story. The temple authorities would erect a bust of him in the temple and a plaque to commemorate the spot where it all happened. But Isaiah didn't want to be a celebrity. His meeting with God exposed his own sin and deeply humbled him. What happened next?

➤ **READ**

- **Read Isaiah 6:1-7.** Which particular words or phrases really stand out to you and why?
- Why do you think the first words Isaiah spoke in God's presence were words of anguish? What do you learn from this?
- Isaiah recognised his sin of speech. Does this surprise you in light of the content of the book written by Isaiah?
- Why do you think one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah? How does this encourage you?
- **Read Hebrews 9:12-14.** How do these verses help you understand what is happening in Isaiah's experience?
- **Read Psalm 32: 1-5.** Turn some of the words or phrases from this psalm and from Isaiah 6:5-7 into a prayer of your own.

➤ **REFLECT**

Isaiah was privileged to see God in a way that few humans have. Such an experience could have made Isaiah proud, but it had the opposite effect. He had, in the first place, a new experience of his own sinfulness. In the Bible we always find that an encounter with God produces a dreadful effect on people. Far from being puffed up with pride they are deeply humbled. And yet the amazing thing with God is that a new experience of Isaiah's sinfulness immediately resulted in a new experience of God's grace. No sooner had Isaiah cried in anguish than God sent the seraph to perform an act of cleansing of sin. The coal came from the altar – the place of sacrifice, pointing forward to the one sacrifice for sins, the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's grace is amazing.

God's arithmetic is simple. Sin + confession = forgiveness. Miss out any part and the sum doesn't add up. God's compassion is limitless, but we cannot experience it until we first recognise the depth of our sinfulness.