

TEXT: Isaiah 6:8

THEME: OUR TRIUNE GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!

1. An Awesome Invitation!
2. An Awesome Response!

**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!” (Isaiah 6:8).** <sup>NIV84</sup>

Dear Christian Friends:

To not be invited is a crushing experience. Imagine everyone else in the classroom is invited to be on the team but you. And just the opposite is also true: One of the most exhilarating experiences is to be invited when you are not expecting it. Imagine, you're awkward, uncoordinated, and don't know the rules, but for the first time, you get invited to play too!

There was no reason why God should invite the “ruined” sinner Isaiah and Isaiah knew it. Yet God invited him. Isaiah heard **“the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’”** Isn't that amazing? There are holy angels, cherubim and seraphs who serve God and us in his kingdom. And God invited Isaiah to join them in service.

By God's grace, you are also invited, even with all your sins and weaknesses. Every believer is invited to be on God's team. And God does not want you just to sit inactive on the bench (or pew). He invites you, he empowers you, and he expects you to serve.

It is true that God has called some to specific areas of service, such as pastors and teachers. But God invites every Christian to publically declare his praises. Peter wrote: **“To God's elect, strangers in the world,...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Pe 1:1; 2:9).** God calls all his followers to love one another as he loves us. It makes no difference whether you are a man or woman, young or old. It doesn't matter where you live on planet Earth. As a believer in Christ, God invites you to go and serve with your words and works of love.

This service, this personal ministry that God has given you, starts in your home and extends to your neighbors. It includes classmates and coworkers, your friends and relatives. Your gracious God puts all kinds of people into your life and invites you to share with them the words and works of Christ's love. Remember, as we just sang, “You can say he died for all.”

WHAT AN AWESOME INVITATION! There's no reason to feel crushed. There's every reason to be awed. You too, like Isaiah, are invited by the triune God to serve on his team with your words and works of love!

But just moments before Isaiah spoke, "**Here am I. Send me!**" he had said, "**I am ruined.**" The sight of the almighty God seated on his throne, the call of seraphs proclaiming his ultimate holiness, and the shaking of the smoke-filled temple had left Isaiah shaken and fearful.

But WHAT AN AWESOME RESPONSE he gave. Isaiah said, "**Here am I. Send me!** He had no idea where God would send him or the difficulty of what God wanted him to do. Isaiah's utter unworthiness was replaced with willingness. His fearfulness was replaced with courage. What brought about this transformation that moved Isaiah to respond, "**Send me!**"? It had nothing to do with Isaiah. It was all the Lord's awesome love and forgiveness!

That same holy, holy, holy triune Lord has poured out that same love and forgiveness on you. Every sin, no matter how big or bad, is forgiven. "**The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin' (1 John 1:7).** His love called, chose, and adopted you to be a member of his team, his family. "**He chose us in him before the creation of the world...In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:4-5).** He has gifted you with abilities and strengthened you for service in his kingdom. "**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:20,21).**

The Bible is filled with accounts of sinners like you and me whom God called and gifted for service. Even though Moses first asked God to send someone else to Egypt, at the age of 80 Moses went. (That makes me feel a little better about my birthday this past week!) Peter denied Jesus and wept bitterly over his sin, yet God used the forgiven Peter to preach that first Pentecost sermon and to write two books of holy Scripture. There was a boy gifted with five loaves of bread and two small fish, a lady named Tabitha (or Dorcas) who was a gifted seamstress, and even a little slave girl who spoke boldly to her master. The Lord used their faith and their love and their gifts to make his glory known and to extend his kingdom.

What will our triune God do through you? God has also worked a transformation in you. The Father has adopted you. The Son has atoned for all your sins. The Holy Spirit has empowered you for service. Like Isaiah, we too will respond, "**Here am I. Send me!**" Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

O God, you have given us an awesome invitation. Move us to an awesome response. You work in us to will and to act according to your good purpose. Strengthen us in soul and body that we may do what is pleasing to you and beneficial to all people. Compel us by the self-sacrificing love of Christ and empower us by the gifts of your Holy Spirit to be witnesses of your gospel in our words and in our actions.

Gracious Lord, heavenly Father, on this Memorial Day weekend, our minds are turned in memory to those who have laid down their lives in defense of our country. We indeed owe a debt of gratitude to them who gave their all that we as a nation may continue our way of life. Grant that we worthily carry on where they have left off that our country may enjoy for generations to come peace and liberty and freedom. May we honor them by bringing the tribute of a ready heart, an obedient life, a worthy citizenship, to our country. Guide the counsels of government. Strengthen the bonds of true loyalty. Let the ideals of liberty and peace prevail. We ask you to stop the senseless, murderous violence of individuals and gangs, especially in our nation's schools. Above all, grant that we, your children by faith in Jesus Christ, find a field of service in which we, as a light and salt, uphold righteousness, order, and peace.

We ask all this in the name of your Son, who came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all, and who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER in modern language