

## **FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 5.22.24 (for 5.26.24)**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man

of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” <sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

- 1) Isaiah sees a lot of things in this passage. What details stand out to you?
- 2) How does your concept of the greatness of God measure up to Isaiah's?
- 3) How does God's forgiveness compel Isaiah's response?

### **Second Reading: Acts 4:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. <sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And

when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name

under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And

they recognized that they had been with Jesus.<sup>14</sup> But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

- 1) The apostles experience persecution, as Jesus shared they would. Despite the threats, how does the Holy Spirit guide the apostles?
- 2) What do you notice about Peter’s message before the ruling council?
- 3) What did the ruling council notice about Peter and John?

### **GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.  
<sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”  
<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”  
<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”  
<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.  
<sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.  
<sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’  
<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”  
<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to

him, “How can these things be?”  
<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?  
<sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony.  
<sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?  
<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.  
<sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
<sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.  
<sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- 1) What stands out to you about Nicodemus's curiosity and his approach to Jesus?
- 2) What does Jesus mean in verse 8 by the analogy about the wind and the Spirit?

3) John 3:16 may be the most popular verse in the Bible. How does this verse stir your love for God? How does it move you to share His love with the world?