

SERMON FOR TRINITY SUNDAY 2021

TEXT: ISAIAH 6: 1-8 AND JOHN 3:16

THEME: THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S LOVE

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. **2** 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. **3** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" **4** And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** 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!" **6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

In the name of Jesus:

One of the more popular children and teenage reading series when I was growing up was the mystery series called "The Hardy Boys." Two fictitious boys, brothers named Frank and Joe Hardy, played the part of detectives, taking on cases that would confound even the best detective minds. It was a series typical of any mystery series or book, something that would be difficult to explain or a case that was impossible to solve would find its answer at the

end of the book. Different mysteries, different answers, all coming to a conclusion as the final chapter would unfold.

Life is full of mysteries, things that are difficult to understand, and yet, in spite of our lack of understanding, they remain true. For instance, there's something called *Quantum Superposition*. Scientists at Stanford University have discovered that one atom can be found simultaneously in two different places, even connected miles apart! Albert Einstein called this "spooky action." Sounds strange? Indeed, beyond our imagination! Science has shown that when something travels extremely fast in relation to another thing, time actually slows down for the speedy thing. We're not talking about clocks, but we are talking about time itself. Sounds strange? Indeed, beyond our imagination!

So too the Triune God is incomprehensible. There are many things that we can't understand, we just need to trust and believe. Holy Scripture, not science, reveals that there is but one God, one being, one essence. Yet Scripture reveals that, beyond our comprehension, there are three distinct persons, each person different from the other two, yet each person being 100 percent God.

Just as the Trinity is a mystery and incomprehensible, so too is the love of God. Today I want to talk to you about THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S LOVE. God

doesn't want us to necessarily understand the mysteries of God and His love, He just wants us to believe Him and take Him at His Word.

Our Old Testament lesson takes place during the time of King Uzziah of Judah. The prophet Isaiah enters the Temple and He beholds this magnificent vision of the Lord. 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. **3** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" As Isaiah stands here, the very foundation that he was standing on shook at God's voice. He really and truly has the fear of God put into him. That is why he says: "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!" No one can see the Lord and live. He is holy, sinless, unlike any other. And Isaiah, is not. He essentially says that he is a dead man walking in the sight of the Lord.

But note God's mercy and grace. God doesn't wish to destroy Isaiah. He wants Isaiah to be His friend. And so, notice what happens: seraphim flew to him, having a burning coal that had been taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And the angel touched his mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." God was not going to destroy Isaiah, instead He would save him for His own holy purposes.

We too are like Isaiah. We have sinned before the Lord. Not one of us is perfect, we have all fallen short of the glory of God. We are right when we say in our common confession that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we deserve no good thing from God. God has every right to destroy each and every one of us. He is good and gracious, giving us blessing after blessing. And how do we show our appreciation and thanks?

We certainly don't love God in the same way that He loves us. We have other things we love more than God. Our hopes and dreams get in the way of what God desires for us. We take His name in vain, we fail to continually hold God's Word before our lives to hear it and to live by it. We don't love God the way He wants us to, and we certainly do not show love to one another. We fail to listen to those around us, to hear their cries of need and despair. God has every right to condemn us, to damn us, for He gave us all that we have and we have lived as if He has never given us one thing.

But great is the mystery of God's love. He doesn't wish to destroy us, He wishes to save us. That is why the Bible says: " For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, so that all who believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world and give life by His name. This is a great mystery, but a wonderful mystery, that God the Father loves us, He loves

you, and in love He sent His one and only Son to be your Savior. God loves you and continues to love you and nothing will separate you from His love. .

God the Father sent His Son Jesus to earth to do His work of seeking and saving the lost. Jesus kept on task, doing what was necessary for your salvation. He kept God's Law perfectly then offered Himself up on the cross as the sufficient payment for all sins. He never made the issue about Himself. Jesus simply states that He was sent by God to do the will of God. Jesus doesn't sensationalize His life or work. He testifies to the truth: "My will is to do the will of Him who sent Me." This is why Jesus says that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Jesus will not perish but have life in His name. Jesus proclaimed that His purpose in His life and ministry was to do the will of His Heavenly Father who sent Him into the world to save sinners.

Salvation is yours today, as a free gift. For you have been saved by grace through faith in Christ, it is not of your own doing; it is a Gift of God. The Holy Spirit has given you this Gift in the waters of your Baptism, washing away your sins and bestowing faith in Jesus in your heart and life. You have become a new person in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is your Helper, of whom Jesus promised when the Holy Spirit comes; He will come proceeding from the Father and the Son. The work of the Spirit is to show you your sins so that you will repent

and turn to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the One who witnesses to you and to the world that the only hope for salvation is trusting in Jesus. He does so by means of the Word of God. Where that Word is proclaimed, the Spirit doesn't point to Himself, He points you to Jesus. The Father points you to Jesus, and the Spirit points you to Jesus, because there is no other name under heaven whereby a sinner can be saved except by believing in Jesus.

The Good News is this: God has made you His child in Jesus Christ. God the Father has created you. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to save you in His suffering, death, and resurrection. And the Holy Spirit has given to you faith in Jesus so that you might believe in Jesus and live as His child. God has done it all! And so today, on this Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the mystery of God's love for us in Jesus. And because of His love, you and I can look forward to the days ahead, knowing that surely goodness and mercy will follow all the days of our lives, and we will live in the Lord's house forever! Amen