

Phineas F. Bresee Sermon Notes - Isaiah 6:8

Every attempt has been made to transcribe these notes accurately. Indecipherable text appears in brackets [-]. Abbreviations transcribed as they appear in the notes.

Isa. VI-8. I heard the voice of the Lord &c

During the last two Sabbaths I have incidentally emphasized through some marvelous statements of Isa. the need of the Lord of a servant through whom he can speak to men. That in the prophet's vision Israel was raised up &c -trained illuminated as such a servant. That the nation appeared to him as a man & was the forerunner & type of individuality in service in this age. Isa. own ideal of the life & service of Israel passed into himself. And he becomes an example of the servant of the Lord. So today I desire to turn your gaze from what he said about the servant of the Lord to himself as an exponent in his life and ministry of his heaven inspired ideals. We do not wonder, indeed it is most natural that his experience & life should of been what he so graphically tells of the servant of the Lord. No man could of told it newly but one in whom it was incarnated. Men may repeat & imitate but a man can scarce utter a new thing only as it burns in his experience as it thrills his own soul. Hypocrisy can only follow the reality. Counterfeits can only come after the genuine &c. Isa heard the word of the Lord. Heard it when it was spoken in a general way. It was something like a general saying to his men. We want a man for a very dif. & dangerous work to penetrate the enemy lines. It may cost him his life it is such a work as we would ask no man to do & yet it needs doing. Who will go for us &c. Isa. heard & said Here am I. Send me. Some things about this call which I may note. It was not a call from sin. There does come a call to sinners but it is not a call to service it is a call to repentance. To the rebel to lay down his arms with promise of pardon &c. For four or five years he has been a prophet &c. It was not a call to holiness. God does call every converted man to holiness. That is not a general call. Not who will be made holy but the voice comes to everyone be ye holy &c. Isa had just come into the exp. of heart purity. The light of the holiness of God and the purity & spirituality of worship had just been revealed to him by a wonderful vision. It had brought conviction of his own need. And an awful soul cry which brought the seraphim with the live coal & the statement that his sin was purged &c. The call to holiness has no primary relation to service. It is an essential preparation. But a man needs to be holy if he [never] [endured] any service &c. God's first-call to his people is to holiness. To call upon unsanctified people to consecrate themselves to service is out of place. The point of consecration is unto God that you may be holy. Your place [Bro] is not in the field but in the upper chamber. God can better afford to do without you in the field than to send you forth unarmed. A general better be without his recruits in the field than to send those without arms [&c] remains as true today. That ye rec power &c. This call followed immediately after entire sanctification. It is always to testimony that God calls his sanctified people to. This is the business of a holy man. To tell to men that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin. Jesus said ye shall rec power. What for to bear witness. One of the fatal [ones here] of the devil is to live it and let men judge whether you have got it or not. You stand a very poor chance of ever living so before an ungodly world that they will ever know you are sanctified. Wholly Jesus could not do it &c. You can illy afford to wait & live before them a year or two or more. Some will be dead. Many of them ought to be got in before the week is out through your testimony by the power of the Holy Ghost. Nobody really believes in this heresy when it is reduced to practice. What would you thought of Peter on Pentecost when the people asked what this was about. If he had of gone off in a corner & sat down & not opened his lips & when you ask him why he says. Well you know my past life has been a rather checkered one. You know it is only a little time since I backslid through fear and it does not become me to make so great a profession. I think people

better live this religion. It may be when I have established a good character & these people see that I am really a holy man they will be saved &c. It is not your character that converts men. It is not your good living but the Holy Ghost. If you have got him you will live &c. Isa. call was to a service unto God. A service not a resting time. Of hardship and valor but not unto them. Of unpopularity and opposition. But to the people. But not unto them. Unto God. This is simply an epitome of what all holy men are called to. Service, hardship, unpopularity, opposition. God's prophets have been hated & stoned & killed from the days of Abel &c. How is it that men still think that a man has only to be good to be popular I cannot tell. Were these worthies popular. Is. very soon passed through the epochs of exp. which come to all anointed workers – His first feeling is enthusiasm & expectancy. He has seen the Lord – the fire has touched his lips. He has but to tell them to make them as enthusiastic as himself. This is the feeling of everyone the fire touches. "O horn of Jacob come ye & let us walk in the light of the Lord." Every Ch. will be so glad. Then there came the disillusion when he found Israel would not hear him. That his message only blinded the eyes & hardened the heart. Only a few a little remnant at most would really hear. He cried out how long O Lord how long. This same disillusion comes to us all. With our young life under the bap &c. We felt as if we could move the world. After a while we come to recognize that this world is old in sin. That the devil has his grappling hooks about its forces & organizations largely & about the souls of men. That the message which we bring so largely hardens men's hearts &c. The temptation is to discouragement. From optimism to pessimism – Isa felt the swinging of the pendulum. He looked to God & came to the place of a servant not an optimist nor a pessimist. But knowing only the will of God to do it. I am reminded of Mazzini the great Italian patriot. Feeling so full of hope, expectancy & enthusiasm & felt he had only to speak all hearts would feel the same. But when he saw that he was forsaken left alone. A heart full of hope. Longing. [Expectation] hope at [heart] for others. And yet no man seemed to care for anything but his own selfish end. And there was such a hurricane of sorrow about him there was such a void before him such a desolation for a moment he [dread] back. Then came for a moment this temptation. Is it a dream. Am I wrong is the world right. He awoke one morning with a great calm in his soul. A great thought had come across his soul it was evidently a self-revelation 'your sufferings are the temptation of egotism and arise from a misconception of life.' "I had not been able to realize the true ideal of love. Love without earthly hope." Thus it was with Isa. Thus with everyone who has the living message of the Son of God. All start with enthusiasm. A heart greedy for affection. All find that their message drives men from them. All face the great void. That they are indeed alone in the world. Faced as by Isa & Mazzini. Almost if not quite with terror. Then there comes the recognition that life is a mission. Not made up of promise of success nor assurance of sympathy – But to look up into the face of Jesus Christ &c. People ask in reference to work for Jesus Christ. Will it be a success. I don't want to embark in anything that is going to be a failure. I would rather embark in failure with JC. Stranded on the rock with the Son of God then in what seems the flash of success without him. What do I know about success. The rock that is buried up in the foundation is as much of a success as the top stone. What do I know about success. Heavenly things have never been a very marked success in this world as far as appearances go. Was this heaven inspired man's life a success. Well if you see him as they are sawing him up like a piece of wood &c. Jeremiah, John the Bap, Jesus, Paul. Is the incarnation of the Holy Ghost a success. Is he not discarded almost universally. Are we therefore discouraged. Are we therefore pessimist. No No. We look into it as Isa did, as Mazzini did as into an awful void. We are disappointed with the age in which we live. With the results of our own life upon men. But we have heard the voice of God. We stand for him. He is our portion, he is my exceeding great reward. You say then you are disappointed. Yes. With everything under the stars. Everything but God. Are you not disheartened. No my heart is full of

strength. Are you not discouraged. No my heart throbs with intense courage. Are you not sad. Yes. But always rejoicing. Are you not cast down. Yes. But not destroyed. My hope big with immortality is cast within the veil. Whither the forerunner is gone. I stand for him down here where the tempests rage &c. Bros & sisters I hail you – Members of the prophet band hardy soldiers of the King. Blood washed Co. of redeemed ones & you who have aspired the Mt. tops of the land immortal. Caught a glimpse of the towers & spheres of the city that hath foundations. You who have got your eyes on crowns of glory & [palms] of victory. You who are not looking [as] the result of your life upon success or failure, popularity or unpopularity. But you have seen the King. One look upon his face is more than a thousand [words]. You stand for him &c. Here am I. I would like to call attention to this man who offers himself & is divinely accepted as a messenger of the Lord. He was a fire cleansed man. There is such a thing as water cleansing and there is such a thing as fire cleansing. There is in metals. There is in man &c. And when a man is fire cleansed. The fire stays in him. Cleansing is only one thing which the bap. with the H.G. does. He abides to fill the man with divine intensity & passion. Human nature runs down, burns out. Men are like little extinct [volcanos]. The fires of enthusiasm, intensity & passion are gone out. But the Divine Presence never burns low &c. Isa. faith never faltered his zeal never cooled. His passion never grew less. He was the embodiment of the message which he bore. It was a message of righteousness, of heart loyalty to God that cut right through the forces & ceremonies of a dead pretense. His personality was the embodiment of what he preached. I read of a monk. Hungry hearted who went to Rome to find help & found the city full of pollution. Asked a monk. We manufacturer a great deal of religion but [is] for exportation &c. The power of [the] cannot with any constancy rise above the power that worketh within the messenger &c. Gods message of salvation to men needs the whole of a man to flow through. It is a salvation to the uttermost. And can only get through a man thus saved. It is to destroy the work of the devil. And cannot effectively go deeper & higher than the exp. of the messenger. Jesus could never of been what he was. As a witness to men only that in him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Paul could never of been what he was only that he was in the [fullness] of the &c. The depth of the heavens revealed in a human soul is the measure of his possibility as a messenger for God. The telescopes I am told rec. the heavens in a mirror that you gaze into a mirror to see the depth of the skies. It is into our own souls that we gaze to see God. And as we see him there we can tell him to others. It is seeing, feeling, knowing him there that impels us to tell him to others. Jesus himself turned his eyes heavenward as the astronomer turns the telescope &c but talked to the Father in his own heart. As he stood at the grave of Lazarus. I & my father are one. The father worketh &c. My Father giveth you the true bread &c. It is God in the soul that impels men with spiritual force. That empowers with Spt. power. Nothing can continually impel men in the presence of a wicked world, in the face of opposition & persecution but the indwelling & power of the Holy Ghost. What was it that so impelled Paul &c. The grip of the hand of God on his soul. What was it that impelled [Dr. Poke] to go to India. That fired the soul of Whitefield. Nothing else will do us. The dear Lord has sent us &c to represent him. To fill up of suffering what [remains]. To preach and testify the grace of God to save men to the uttermost. To gather some sheaves to his [-]. We come in near the end of things seemingly. He says I send you to reap the harvest upon which ye have bestowed no labor. O the labor of the Son of God. We enter in to his labor. Gethsemane & Calvary have gone before. The Holy Ghost has come. And now is ours to gather some sheaf for him. Let us gather someone to his bosom.

End of notes