

Altars

THE PLACE OF BLESSING & SACRIFICE

Altars Part 4—Coals from the Altar Pastor Dave Patterson 2-16-2020

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

- **The Altar is the place where the Divine meets with humanity**
- **The Altar is the place of covenant and promise**
- **The Altar is the place where the activity of heaven touches earth**
- **The Altar is the place where the fire of God can be found**
- **The altar is the place of forgiveness and right standing**
- **The Altar is the entry point to the presence and purpose of God for our lives**
- **The altar is the place of Cleansing and Commissioning**

[Acts 20:24]

²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

[Hebrews 9:23, AMP]

“The tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven (earthly symbols of heavenly realities)”

God wants to turn your normal day into an encounter.

[Isaiah 6:1-8, NLT]

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other,

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies!
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”*

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

⁵ Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”

⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?”

And I said, "Here I am. Send me."

[John 12:41, TPT]

Isaiah said these things because he had seen and experienced the splendor of Jesus and prophesied about him.

[2 Chronicles 26:5]

Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. And as long as the king sought guidance from the LORD, God gave him success.

[2 Chronicles 26:16]

But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall.

There is a God in heaven that will always communicate with His people.

1. God is still on the throne!

Isaiah 6:1

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne..."

[Acts 7:49, NIV]

***"Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.***

Live your life not from the footstool, but from the throne.

[Ephesians 2:6]

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

2. God is still Holy.

[Isaiah 6:3]

They were calling out to each other,

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies!
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”*

[Exodus 15:11]

*“Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—
glorious in holiness,
awesome in splendor,
performing great wonders!*

[1 Samuel 2:2]

*“There is no one holy like the LORD;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.*

[Psalm 99:1-3]

*The LORD reigns,
let the nations tremble;
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.
Great is the LORD in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.
Let them praise your great and awesome name—
He is holy.*

God never reveals your condition to condemn you.

3. God is still purifying sinful people (There's still fire on the altar).

[Psalm 120:3]

*O deceptive tongue, what will God do to you?
...you will be pierced with sharp arrows
and burned with glowing coals.*

[Psalm 50:7-15, 23]

*“O my people, listen as I speak.
Here are my charges against you, O Israel:
I am God, your God!
I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices
or the burnt offerings you constantly offer.
⁹ But I do not need the bulls from your barns
or the goats from your pens.
¹⁰ For all the animals of the forest are mine,
and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.
¹¹ I know every bird on the mountains,
and all the animals of the field are mine.
¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for all the world is mine and everything in it.
¹³ Do I eat the meat of bulls?
Do I drink the blood of goats?
¹⁴ Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God,
and keep the vows you made to the Most High.
¹⁵ Then call on me when you are in trouble,
and I will rescue you,
and you will give me glory.”
²³ ... giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me.*

**God prepares us at the altar for the ministry that is right in front
of us.**

[Isaiah 6:7]

He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”

- 4. God is still sending all who are willing to be used for His Glory.**

[Isaiah 6:8]

Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

FOR MONDAY—

1. Boldly ask for a fresh encounter with God.
2. Take a moment to recognize God is on the throne of something personal and specific to you!

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Who do you typically seek guidance from? Whose perspective do you solicit when making decisions?
2. When have you been set apart or stood out from those around you?
3. What would church look like if everyone intentionally developed their gifting and was serving others?
4. Why do you think people operate from the “footstool” and others live from the “throne” of God? How does our perspective influence how we live?
5. What are some things the Lord does to cleanse and commission us? How have you experienced that?

6. How does the “fear of God” (a reverential awe), keep our perspective of Him holy?
7. Where is God sending you (geographically, relationally, or situationally) to be used for His glory?