



Bonner Gospel Mission

Sewing the community since 1987

April 2021

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For God So loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoso ever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.
 John 3:16

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Bonner Gospel Mission
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From Woe to Go! Our lesson of transformation from Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Isaiah's transformational encounter with God in Isaiah 6 is a good lesson for us.

This is one of my favorite scriptures for understanding what transformation looks like when the believer experiences God. These verses give us a perfect picture of the believer's response when God is seen. God's grace took Isaiah from "Woe is me!" to "Here I am!" Isaiah had four actions that took place in succession. Experience led to conviction led to a confession that led to his cleansing that led to his commission. This is how transformation happens—conviction to confession to cleansing to commission.

The moment Isaiah saw God's holiness (Isaiah 6:1-4), he was convicted. He said "Woe is me! For I am lost..." As when Peter first met Jesus, and he knew it was the Lord, his first reaction was, "depart from me. I am filthy." (Luke 5:8) The glory of God reveals your filth, your uncleanness, while at the same time you see God's love for you. In addition, when you see God, it puts Him as the Holy Creator and you just as the creation. It puts God where He belongs as Creator and us where we belong as creation. The beautiful thing is that God meets you where you are but doesn't leave you where you are. Isaiah gives us this picture of a man who was in sin, saw God, and was transformed by the glory of God. We see in verses 1-4 that Isaiah, a sinner and unclean, was able to see God. He didn't have to clean himself up beforehand, he didn't have to sing the right song, or dance the right dance. He saw the Lord high and lifted up.

The conviction then led Isaiah to the confession, "I am a man of unclean lips." (Isaiah 6:5) We see a right lamentation over sin, as David proclaimed in Psalm 51:16-17. God doesn't want a work. He finds pleasure in a broken and contrite heart, a holy agony over sin. If you mourn over sin your soul is alive. Scriptures tell us there is a difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:9-

12). Worldly sorrow is mournful over the result of sin. Godly sorrow is mournful over sin and this is only achieved through the Holy Spirit. In this godly sorrow you experience the cleansing power of God through the blood of Christ.

Isaiah 6:7 demonstrates the cleansing in both expiation and propitiation, "your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." "Guilt taken away" is expiation; "Your sin atoned for" is propitiation. Once you embody the forgiveness and redemption of God through the blood of Jesus Christ, it empowers you to the commission, like Isaiah 6:8. God asked, "Who are we going to send?" Unlike Moses, who doubted his ability when God commissioned him to His work, Isaiah—without even asking what he was being called to—said, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8).

So, the cry of "Woe is me" is not shame or condemnation, it is a reverent fear of God helping you understand how much you need a Savior and how much you need God's grace. I also equate "Woe is me" from Isaiah with Romans 7:24-25, "Wretched man that I am. Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Seeing God reveals to you how bad you really are and at the same time it lets you see how good God really is. It lets you see His grace as you transform into His image and likeness.

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Mission Updates

1. Thank you for your prayers! As you may know I (James Noriega) took a pretty nasty fall a while back where I ruptured a disk in my back. Now after surgery I am doing much better. I have been on the mend and back to work for several weeks. I truly believe it was due to your prayers. THANK YOU!

2. We are now heading out of winter and have a few spring projects ahead of us and one of the new projects is installing much needed new siding. We are praying for the funds and the help to install it. We want these buildings here for a long time and feel like God is calling us to be good stewards of these buildings, so we would ask you to join us in prayer for funds and volunteers in this huge endeavor.

3. We are planning on yard maintenance and beautification, so if you have a green thumb and love planting, we would love to have some folks teach our men gardening, planting and maintenance. It would be a great teachable time for our men and I hope you, so let me know if you are interested in showing our men on some gardening skills.

4. We also could use some old used bikes. Most of our guys don't have transportation and could use the bikes for getting to work and exercise.

If we worship our way into sin then we have to worship our way out of it... Thank you Jesus!

Our mission comes under a lot of criticism for our stand that all you need is our crucified savior, Jesus for all matters, including addiction. We subscribe to the idea that addiction is really a matter of sin and not a genetic or medical issue. If there is a predisposition to a genetic desire for addictive substances alcohol, drugs, food, sex, we still have a choice.

We are all worshipers, humans were made to worship. The question then is what do we worship? We can worship God or things not of God. The problem is, we have worshiped our way into sin: we have to worship our way out of sin. Meaning, trusting that the work Jesus did on the Cross was enough for us

Addictions are the problem of misplaced worship, or a worship malady. A lot of people struggle with this same underlying issue – who or what will you chose to worship? For the addict, it's the substance. For some, it's the same as pride, anger, lust, opinions of others, etc. Will we control the world ourselves with our own devices or will we turn and trust in the true God?

Scripture distinguishes those things that come at us (Satan, abuse, circumstances, etc) from those things that come out of us. What comes out of us are the wants, and pleasures that may not be from God. We teach our men that God is enough and when they start to believe that, their worship turns towards the Lord!

Our mission will stay true to this calling no matter what. Praise Him!

Mission Needs

Pray Specifically For:

1. James Noriega as he navigates the day to day operations of the mission.
2. Our staff, to be able to minister to our guests with clarity, wisdom, discernment, patience, and the ability to listen well and give counsel that is in accordance to God's Word.
3. Our guests to have a sincere thirst for God's Word, to mature as new believers, and have a strong desire to attend a church that teaches God's Word.
4. The men to find true friendships with other believers.
5. Jobs for our guests: temporary day jobs or more long term ones
6. Our Nation, local community leaders, and emergency responders.

Ongoing and Special Needs:

1. Food: Hamburger, chili, chicken, milk, eggs, bread, cold cereal, bacon, sausage, casseroles that we can freeze, and chips.
2. Homemade meals are a real blessing to us. If you would like to provide a meal please call and we can set up a time.
3. Financial Support for monthly operations.
4. We are hoping to start re-siding and painting our buildings. We feel it's important to keep and maintain our facility because they represent our ministry to this community. One of the many blessings BGM enjoys is the fact that we have no debt, so any money that is donated for special projects goes to that project. Praise God.