

THE CROSS

Why do we need the cross?

Isaiah 6:1-8

- the Sir Patrick Moore syndrome

A big vision of God (v1-4)

- majesty ¹

- holiness ²

A deep awareness of sin (v5)

- the response

- the reason ³

A transforming experience of grace (v6-8)

- cleansed from sin

- commissioned for service



Starter-questions for discussion

? what struck you most in today's sermon / passage? What's the main thing you're going to take away?

? are you aware of your own need of the cross? When did you first become aware of that? How can you stop drifting away from it?

? how does your picture of God compare to the one in this chapter?

? how does your picture of yourself compare to the one in this chapter?

? how has this passage helped you to understand God's grace more?

? how has this passage helped you to understand serving God better?

? what do you make of these quotations?

'Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves...Man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself, unless he has first looked upon God's face...For we always seem to ourselves righteous and upright and wise and holy – this pride is innate in all of us – unless by clear proofs we stand convinced of our own unrighteousness, foulness, folly, and impurity.' (Calvin: *Institutes*)

'There are two things that are suited to humble the souls of men, and they are, first, a due consideration of God, and then of themselves – of God, in his greatness, glory, holiness, power, majesty, and authority; of ourselves, in our mean, abject, and sinful condition.' (John Owen)

¹ 2 Chronicles 26:16; Isaiah 57:15

² Isaiah 40:25; Genesis 14:10; 2 Kings 25:15; Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 50:21

³ Mark 7:21-23; Leviticus 13:45; Isaiah 2:19; 5:8,11,18,20,21,22