

Who is your Sanctuary?

Isaiah 8:11 *This is what the Lord says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning **me not to follow the way of this people.***

*12 'Do not call conspiracy
Everything this people calls a conspiracy;
Do not fear what they fear,
And do not dread it.*

*13 The **Lord Almighty** is the one you are to regard as holy,
He is the one you are to fear,
He is the one you are to dread.*

- This warning that God spoke to Isaiah, shows us a situation that is still very much relevant today.

That is – not to go the way of the crowd.

God could see the way things were going in Judah amongst the people and He was determined that Isaiah would NOT become 'infected' and go the same way.

It would have greatly affected his ministry as a prophet before the Lord.

The people had become greatly affected by their fear of the TALK.

Their choosing to believe what the community around them were saying started to dominate their daily conversations with each other.

It affected their faith and their confidence in God's power and ability to protect and provide for them.

Their fear for God (honour and respect and reverence) was now REPLACED with speculation and assumptions.

- God gave Isaiah a clear warning about not getting caught up and distracted in the talk and conversation but to keep his attention and focus – God honouring and God exalting.

God wanted Isaiah to have NO INVOLVEMENT in the situation. For him not to enter into the conversations around him.

God also told Isaiah the CONSEQUENCES according to which way he would go

- God would either be a sanctuary (a place of safety) for him OR he would be a 'stone that causes people to stumble'. (8:14&15)

- **Isaiah 8:5** NLT My care for the people of Judah is like the gently flowing waters of Shiloah but they have rejected it.

1 Peter 3: 14 & 15

14But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be shaken.”

*15But in your hearts sanctify Christ **as Lord**. Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you.*

Doing what is RIGHT and God honouring, in many cases today, it is considered ‘evil’ or ‘wrong’ by our society.

Many things today, that God says are RIGHT and GOOD – are rejected by the world. They are rejected because of fear. Fear of being excluded – ‘cancel culture’.

Peter writes that what God spoke all those years before to Isaiah ‘Sanctify Christ as Lord’, means to ‘set apart’, ‘treat as holy’, ‘revere’, ‘have respect for’.

2 Timothy 2:4 NKJV

No one engaged in warfare **entangles** himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier,

ENTANGLE – to become caught in something. To become involved in difficulties or complicated circumstances from which it is difficult to get out of.

Entanglement comes from allowing ourselves to be influenced and overpowered by other things and it weakens our convictions.

INSTEAD – become ‘weaved in’ to God – ‘weaved in’ to the Word. Secure and sure in who we are in Christ and FREE of fear.

Setting God apart in our lives as holy and making Him the director of our hearts frees us to minister and help others.