

# *40 Days of Prayer and Fasting*

October 24<sup>th</sup>

Daily Devotional #24

*We Are in the Season of Listening*

*As We Ask, "What Is GOD Preparing Us/for Us to Do?"*

Today's devotional is from Michele Thompson as she chronicles her experience with "Listening." It is an excellent story of GOD's Presence, Connectedness, and Interaction with those who are receptive and ready. She also makes a very insightful and wise statement concerning "frequency" (getting curious, yet!?!). It's interesting to me (preachers love good life-lessons/journeys that have a "sermon connection") that the preacher was preaching out of Isaiah 6. So, as the perfect transition between my intro and Michele's devo, here is the Great Text:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of His glory."

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

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

<sup>9</sup> He said, "Go and tell this people..."

*Isaiah 6:1-9a (NIV84)*

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Some thoughts about Listening...

I can tell you exactly when I was listening and clearly hear what God was saying. It's written in the margin of my Bible by Isaiah 6: "Feb 1996 - Calling to prison ministry".

We lived in OKC, and I'd been part of a small group of ladies from church who had consistently met every Thursday night for Bible study for at least six years. We all began to get a sense that there was something we needed to be doing outside of our close-knit, much loved group. So we agreed that we would disband the group but only with everyone's commitment that we would each find "something" to do in place of our weekly study. And we all began to pray for God's guidance regarding what, individually, we would do next.

It was a Sunday morning, and our minister was preaching from Isaiah 6. The chapter where Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne, and the seraphs praised Him, and Isaiah cowered at his uncleanness, and a seraph touched his lips with a live coal from the altar, and God said "Who can I send, who will go for us?" and Isaiah said "Here am I. Send me!" And at that moment, it was just God and me in that auditorium, and I said to Him, "I don't know what You want me to do Lord, but here I am, send me!"

After services were over, I was standing around talking with friends. One of the young women came up to me and said "I know you have your Bible study on Thursdays, but I wanted to tell you about a prison ministry opportunity at the women's maximum security facility on Thursday nights, and we need more volunteers."

She must have thought I was nuts because my mouth just dropped open. She had no idea we had disbanded our group. She had no idea that we'd be praying for other opportunities. She had no idea that I had NOT 20 MINUTES EARLIER asked God to "send me."

Obviously she was listening to God's prompting when she asked me. And I knew at that very moment that God had immediately answered my "send me" request. Of course I said yes! And the rest was (and is) HIStory... I was blessed with 4 wonderful, challenging, rewarding years at the women's prison in our weekly Thursday night Bible study.

We committed, we prayed, I listened, I heard. And God responded. I've never had another experience like it even though I've prayed for it. But I'm OK if it doesn't happen again because it was loud and clear enough that I will never forget it.

The moral of the story is....well, I think you get it.

Michele