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## **A Nation That Rejects Christ – Isaiah 1-6**

A Devotion for Families by *Dr. Jim Smyrl*

A.W. Tozier referred to worship as “the missing jewel of the church.” The absence of heart worship among God’s people is symptomatic of a nation that has rejected God. It is well said that as the fathers go so goes the marriage; as the marriage goes so goes the family; as the family goes so goes the church; as the church goes so goes the nation. A nation that rejects Christ does not enter such a state through immoral legislation or judicial rulings, but rather by way of a church that has neglected the worship of so great a Savior.

Isaiah 1-6 provides characteristics of a nation that rejects Christ. The similarities between the Children of Israel and the church of Jesus Christ that rejects God are not surprising. Sin in the heart of man has been the common core of all rebellion from man since the Garden.

We will invest several studies in this one section of Scripture. In preparation look at the general outline below that we will detail in the days to come and read Isaiah chapters 1-6. Observe, in each chapter, the characteristics of a nation and individuals that reject Christ.

1. Rebellious (1:1-4)
2. Powerless (1:7-9)
3. Heartless (1:11-15)
4. Loved (1:16-20)
5. Compassionless (1:21-23)
6. Unstable (2:5-3:12)
7. Vain (3:16-4:1)
8. Oppressed (5:7-24a)
9. Empty (5:24b)
10. Redeemable (6)

Socrates, the Classical Greek Philosopher, was approached by a young man. The young man asked, “Oh master Socrates, will you be my teacher?” Socrates turned and said, “follow me,” and began to walk towards the ocean. The young man, greatly desiring to come under the tutelage of the great teacher, submissively followed behind. Socrates entered the water, never turning to address the young man. The young man followed until the water touched just below his chin. Socrates turned, faced the young man, placed his aged hands on the lad’s head and immersed the boy under the water. Desiring to demonstrate his compliancy, the young man remained under water until he could go no longer without air. He flexed the muscles in legs to let the great teacher know he was ready to emerge, but Socrates pressed with greater force on the boy’s head. Panic set in and the young man began to flail his arms fearing now that the master philosopher had gone mad and sought to end the boy’s life. Just as the young man faced death, Socrates released his hold and the boy burst through the water’s surface gasping for life. After a few saving breathes the boy cried out, “Oh master, Why, Why did you do that to me?” Socrates responded, “When you desire to learn as much as you desired air, I will be your teacher.”

As we walk through Isaiah 1-6 may we drown our selfish pursuits and desire God as much as we desire air.