

My vision for worship leadership includes establishing various goals like establishing organization, developing talent and musical skill, and ministering to your soul. I recognize my role is not only a director, mentoring artist, but also your shepherd. With that third emphasis in mind, I'd like to share a first devotion wrapped up in the first of three passages for our ministry at SCBC, unpacked below:

The model for a fruitful worship ministry is found in Isaiah 6. This infamous passage recounts Isaiah standing in the throne room of heaven, seeing God's glory and all of the heavenly hosts praising God and His name. The effect upon Isaiah is 2 things: 1) he is undone within himself to the point that he becomes 2) willing to serve the Lord as hard as he can, as long as he can, even if the ones he prophesies to do not listen. We read the infamous, "here I am, Lord; send me!" passage. I call it the Old Testament's Great Commission, before it was cool...

Why does this passage matter to our worship ministry? It models a comprehensive picture of worship and the how it translates into active service for the Kingdom of God. Worship *in song* transmits worship *in action*. This is why it is crucial to pay attention heavily to the words we sing. These words are intended to strengthen our resolve to love God, love people, and ultimately make disciples. May one song emphasizes the cross. Another, missions, the virgin birth, Christian love, etc. May these songs we compile every Sunday compliment the efforts of Brother Mahlon.

I will share two more passages in the coming weeks, but for now, I encourage you to study Isaiah 6:1-10, and recognize how his revelation within this Old Testament vision translated to his own present reality in dealing with Israel. His heart was changed, realizing he was a man of unclean lips, broken, yet still summoned to the presence of God and then to the mission of God undeservedly. The focus of our worship is Jesus Christ. And, through any touch of the Holy Spirit we may receive when focused on Jesus, may it sharpen our personal missions to abide more in God's.

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