

make our lives and our witness and our testimony count with those people whom we see day by day. Whom shall we send and who will go for us? Have you answered, as Isaiah did? "Then said I, Here am I; send me." And it is not enough to answer once. Every day, if we are truly Christ's, we must hear Him say, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And we must answer, Here am I; send me. Well here are four visions that Isaiah saw. And you might think, these four are enough; why not stop here? If we have these four we can serve our Lord and be satisfied. What more do we need? I heard a man say one time, "Why do we need to come to seminary and <sup>to</sup> study this Greek and Hebrew and church history and exegesis of all this stuff. We have got John 3:16; why isn't it enough to go out and present John 3:16?" "Well," I said to him, "You are better off with John 3:16 and nothing else, than with everything in the Bible except that that is directly related to John 3:16 and this left out." John 3:16 is a presentation, a summary of the greatest truths in the scripture, but God is not satisfied with our simply having that. He proceeded to give Isaiah a further vision and this vision I am going to call a vision of God's point.

Can you imagine how disappointed Isaiah must have been as he heard these next two verses? "Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." What a lot of cold water to throw at Isaiah's head when Isaiah was just ready to go out and give the message and win everybody to the Lord, and the Lord gives him this commission. Well, you know we can't study this commission very much and study the Book of Isaiah very much without seeing that this isn't the whole commission. This is just a part of it. Because you go on through the Book of Isaiah and you find that he is giving, in this book, the most wonderful statements of consolation; the most wonderful verses of encouragement and help. He points to Christ more than any one else in the whole Old Testament. He gives us the wonderful declarations of God's grace and God's mercy. And yet at His call he has this terrible command given him to go out and to harden people. God gives Isaiah not the whole picture here but He gives him that side of the picture that he was apt to overlook. We find the same thing in Jeremiah. The first chapter of Jeremiah has God's call to Jeremiah. And God says to Jeremiah, in verse 10, "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy." And you would think God was going to send Jeremiah out to just declare His will, and see wonderful success and effectiveness everywhere. And then you read on and you find Jeremiah persecuted, driven about, put in dungeons, giving his word in terrible difficulty. His words eventually are carried out by the Spirit of God and ~~and~~ indeed do pluck up the nations and destroy them, and build and plant, as the verse says. But Jeremiah, through his life, had a miserable