



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Small Group Questions: Sunday 17th January 2021

Majestic: In awe of the majesty of God

Isaiah 1:10-20 - Meaningless Offerings

Read Isaiah 1:10-20

- Warm up – have you ever been given a present knowing that the giver was hoping that you would do something in return for them? What did that feel like?
- Background – it may be helpful to briefly explore the background to this passage – likely set towards the end or just after King Uzziah's reign which was long and prosperous. There was plenty of wealth, but also much social inequality.

Worship focussed on outward appearance and ritual. How might that apply to us today?

- Why does the Lord find the offerings, festivals, and worship detestable?
- Is he being a bit harsh? Surely, they are at least still worshipping the One True God – shouldn't he accept their sacrifices?
- Apply this to us – how might this help us to explore the majestic awesomeness of God? Spend a good amount of time digging into this area. (My initial thoughts include: He doesn't need me! I can't bribe him! All that I have is his anyway! Worldly extravagance of the gift means nothing to him! I was reminded of the old song 'All my trials Lord soon be over' one verse is 'If religion were a thing that money could buy, the rich would live and the poor would die' – the smallest gift in worldly terms may mean more to God than the richest gift – see the widows mite Luke 21:1-4.)
- Bishop Ruth explained that one reason why animals were sacrificed was because the owner was giving not just the current value of the animal, but its future productivity – this was very costly. How might this help us as we consider our giving and our worship?
- Discuss verse 18 – how does this wonderful offer of grace and forgiveness relate to the earlier verses about meaningless offerings? Again, how does this help us to at least try to get a bigger understanding of God?

- Perhaps finish in prayer and worship, take some time perhaps in quiet to reflect on God's majesty, his awesomeness, his 'otherness', and give him thanks.

Chris Absolon