

Sermon Notes

The Message - Heb 1:1-3

December 13, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. does anyone here know sign language... beauty in sign that often can't be expressed with words... all senses involved... emotions very clear... if you had a loved one who couldn't speak or hear... do all you could... including learning sign to communicate... tell them how loved, valuable, wonderful they are...
Psa 38:13-14... "I am like a deaf person, I do not hear... mouth does not speak..."
Isa 42:18-20... "listen, you deaf... ears are open, but you do not listen..."
- b. in many ways, we are deaf to God's voice... our busyness drowns out His gentle whisper... He wants us to pay attention... but He doesn't shout...
Exo 19:5... "if you'll carefully listen... you'll be my own out of all the peoples..."
Deut 5:27... "go yourself... and listen to everything the Lord our God says..."
2Kings 17:14... "they would not listen... instead became stubborn, not believe..."
1Kings 19:11-13... "after wind, fire, quake... there was sound of gentle whisper..."
- c. can't trust God without knowing Him... can't know Him unless you know Word... can't receive promises without believing... can't believe without hearing... often miss *The Moment*... because we're too busy to hear *The Message*... pray...
Rom 10:14-17... "how can they believe without hearing..."
2Cor 1:20... "every one of promises is Yes in Him... that's why we say Amen..."
1Thess 2:13... "received Word, welcomed it... works in you who believe..."

II. The Message

- a. many struggle with understanding who God is... even though He's been telling us for thousands of years... not lack of His voice, but lack of us really listening...
Gen 1... "God created heaven and earth... Spirit moved... light, day... dark, night..."
Exo 3... "blazing fire from middle of bush... God called to him from the bush..."
Num 22... "the donkey said, have I ever treated you this way before..."
Amos 1... "basket with ripe fruit... like this fruit, Israel is ripe for punishment..."
Rom 1... "what can be known about God is evident... clearly seen, no excuse..."
- b. God speaks thru creation, fruit, donkeys, bushes, sunrise and sunset... sometimes when we don't understand words... we need a sign... so what was the sign...
Rom 15:4... "whatever was written before was to teach us... give encouragement..."
1Cor 10:11... "these things were examples for us..."
Col 2:17... "these are a shadow of what was to come... the substance is Christ..."
Rom 5:6-11... "when we were helpless... Christ came at just the right time..."
Gal 4:4... "when the time came... God sent His Son..."
Heb 1:1-3... "long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors... now, He has spoken to us thru His Son... exact expression of His nature..."
- c. weren't getting it thru God's voice... not even His Word... so God sent Jesus to communicate His message of love in a way we could understand... the miracle of the message is that thru Jesus... we can know exactly who God is...

- d. since time began... people hungered to know who God was... impossible... no one really did until Jesus came... He revealed the Father... and His love...
Matt 11:27... "no one knows the Father... except those Son reveals Him to..."
John 5:19-36... "whatever the Father does... the Son does also..."
John 10... "tell us plainly... I did, you don't believe, Father and I are one..."
John 14:7-11... "I am way, truth, and life, no one comes to the Father except thru Me... show us the Father... if you know Me, you know the Father, from now on, you do know Him... one who has seen Me, has seen the Father..."
- e. recognize God's timing by seasons... recognize God's voice by signs...
Dreams - get too busy, has to wait until we're quiet for us to listen...
Job 33:14-17... "God speaks... may not notice... dreams, deep sleep, slumber..."
Psa 16:7... "praise the Lord who counsels me... even at night He instructs..."
Visions - awake, not asleep... confirmation of what God is doing...
Acts 9:10-12... "Lord said in a vision... in a vision, Paul has seen you..."
Angels - not often, but don't dismiss... still happens...
Heb 2:1-4... "message God delivered thru angels has always stood firm..."
Heb 13:2... "some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it..."
Nature - voice of God thru storms, rainbows, flowers, animals, creation...
Job 12:7-10... "animals teach you... birds tell... earth instruct... fish speak..."
Psa 19:1... "the heavens declare glory of God... skies proclaim His work..."
Audible - God still speaks... always to build up and encourage... need intimacy...
Mark 1:11... "voice from heaven... this is my Beloved Son, fully pleased..."
Luke 9:35... "voice from cloud... this is My Son, Chosen One, listen to Him..."
- f. good at talking... not so good at listening... must listen to God's voice, not just hear... must listen to understand... requires time and attention...
Deut 31:12-13... "gather people so they may listen... follow My words..."
Josh 3:9... "come closer and listen to the words of the Lord..."
Prov 4... "listen, pay attention... so you may gain understanding..."
Isa 55:2-3... "listen carefully... pay attention... delight in abundance..."
Matt 13:9-13... "should listen... hearing, they do not listen and understand..."
John 8:43... "why don't you understand... because you do not listen..."
- g. how do we get in position to listen to the message God is communicating...
Time - got to spend time with someone to recognize their voice...
Josh 1:8-9... "study Word continually... meditate on it day and night..."
1Chron 16:11... "seek the Lord... seek His face always..."
Quiet - let's face it... can't listen very well to anyone when it's noisy...
Lam 3:25-28... "good to wait quietly for salvation... sit alone in silence..."
Mark 1:35-36... "rising early... departed and went to isolated place to pray..."
Trust - doubt God speaks to us... worried not holy enough... trust what Jesus did...
Eze 36:26... "given you new heart... new spirit... remove heart of stone..."
2Cor 5:17-21... "if anyone is in Christ... he is a new creation... old is gone..."
Write - important to journal what God is telling you... or we forget...
Jer 30:2... "this is what the Lord says... write down all words I have spoken..."
Hab 2:1-2... "wait to see what He says... write down plainly... for others..."
- h. won't master those right away... never understand *The Message*... God is good, loving, kind... forgiven all sins... wants relationship with you... if busyness steals *The Moment*... build a habit and start listening today... pray...
Luke 2... "today, a Savior has been born to you... peace to people He favors..."
Rom 5... "Christ came at right time and died... now we're saved by His life..."
2Cor 6:2... "at right time, I heard you... right time is now... today is the day..."
Eph 5:15-16... "walk wisely... redeeming (buying back) the time..."

The Jesus of the Bible

John 14:7... *if you had known Me... you would know My Father...*

If you ask God for something... will He give it to you? Let's look at what the bible says in **1John 5:14-15**. *This is the confidence we have before Him... whenever we ask anything according to His will... He hears us... and if we know that He hears whatever we ask... we know that we have what we have asked Him for.*

Don't get caught up in experience and tradition. What does the Word say? We don't want to ask for things that are against God's will or Word. But the normal thought process in the church today is that we don't always know what God's will is for us. We often say... *what will be, will be*. Jesus said, *He who has seen Me has seen the Father*. **John 14:9**. This means that if you want to know what the Father's will, mind, heart or attitude toward you and your family is... just look at the life of Jesus.

If your child is sick... is it God's will to heal him? Well, look to Jesus and see how He ministered to children who were sick... the Syro-Phoenician's daughter who was demon-possessed... Jairus' daughter who was dead... the widow of Nain's son who was about to be buried. Jesus cast out the demon... raised the dead... and healed them all. **Mark 7:24-30... Mark 5:22-43... Luke 7:12-15**.

Please don't believe we can never know God's will... or that He sometimes heals, sometimes doesn't... or that He blesses us but also may just take our blessings away. The Jesus of the Bible never made anyone sick... never took away anyone's blessings. He went about doing good to all. **Matt 4:23**. He never made anyone poor. He made the little become much with 12 baskets full of leftovers. **Matt 14:20**. He gave a net-breaking, boat-sinking load of fish to fishermen. **Luke 5:6-7**.

The Jesus of the Bible loves to heal, deliver, prosper and save people. This Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. **Heb 13:8**. If He was willing to heal then... He is willing to heal now. **Luke 5:12-13**. And He says to you today... *if you had known Me, you would have known My Father also, and from now on you know Him and have seen Him*. **John 14:7**. You can know God's will for you. You can see what He will do for you when you know the Jesus of the Bible and what He did.

Pastor Joseph Prince

Sermon Study

The Message - **Heb 1:1-3** - December 13, 2020

1. Read **Psa 38:13-14** and **Isa 42:18-20**. At times, how are you **deaf** to God's voice? What is a better way? Read **Exo 19:5... Deut 5:27... 2Kings 17:14**. What is **His voice** like? Read **1Kings 19:11-13**.
2. List some **ways** God speaks to us? Read **Gen 1... Exo 3... Num 22... Amos 1... Rom 1**. How do **signs help** when you don't understand the words? Read **Rom 15:4... 1Cor 10:11... Col 2:17**. What was God's **main sign**? Read **Rom 5:6-11... Gal 4:4... Heb 1:1-3**.
3. How did Jesus **reveal the Father** to us? Read **Matt 11:27... John 5:19-36... John 10:22-30... John 14:7-11**.
4. What signs does God use to help us **recognize His voice**? Read **Job 33:14-17** and **Psa 16:7**. **Acts 9:10-12**. **Heb 2:1-4; 13:2**. **Job 12:7-10** and **Psa 19:1**. **Mark 1:11** and **Luke 9:35**. In which of those ways have you heard God's voice?
5. Explain the difference between **hearing and listening**. Which do you do better? **Why**? What does God say? Read **Deut 31:12-13... Josh 3:9... Prov 4:20-23... Isa 55:2-3... Matt 13:9-13... John 8:43**.
6. How do you **prepare** to listen to the message God is trying to speak? Read **Josh 1:8-9** and **1Chron 16:11**. **Lam 3:25-28** and **Mark 1:35-36**. **Exe 36:26** and **2Cor 5:17**. **Jer 30:2** and **Hab 2:1-2**.

If it much easier to speak first... thinking you will listen later. But often, speaking first means losing the opportunity to listen at all. John Younts

Listen and allow the Word to make the beginning... then the knowing of God will follow. If you do not listen, you will never know anything. Martin Luther

Advent Explanation

November 29, 2020

Not all of us have Christmas decorations up yet, but many do. Traditionally, Christmas stuff gets put up only after Thanksgiving... that is unless you're Walmart, and then it gets put up in late September!!

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year... and with the year we've had... many are celebrating early. Advent is intended for us to slow down, take a deep breath, and remember the real reason for the season.

Advent means: *the coming or arrival of something or someone that is important or worthy.*

The very first mention of Advent goes back to AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa!! Even they were busy!! There's no perfect guide on how to celebrate getting ready for Jesus... so there really isn't a *right or wrong* way to have Advent in your church or your family.

Generally, the themes of Advent correspond to particular weeks.

Week 1 - Hope
Week 2 - Preparation
Week 3 - Joy
Week 4 - Love
Week 5 - Christ

The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world and He came to dispel the darkness. They are meant, in the middle of our busyness, to remind us first and foremost, that the entire Christmas season is all about Jesus. We encourage you to have your own Advent traditions at home, as well as here.

Advent - Week 3 - Joy

December 13, 2020

READING

This is the third week of advent. We light the **candle of joy** to remind us that the birth of Jesus brings great joy to all who believe in Him and we unite with all creation in celebrating our Messiah. Because of His blood, we now have direct access to God, our sins not just covered, but completely removed and forgiven as if they had never been committed. We can now approach the throne of grace with confidence and boldness and that is a reason for great joy.

SCRIPTURE

Matt 2:10-11... *When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Alternative readings: Psa 146:5-10... Isa 35:1-10... Luke 2:8-14
Songs: Joy to the World; Hark the Herald Angels Sing