

The 5th Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 29, 2018

“Hearing God ~ How God Speaks Part 2”

John 10:1-18

“The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” (John 10:2-5)

Jesus is our Good _____, and as His sheep, we’ve been created to _____ and _____ His voice and His voice alone. Our ability to do this ensures our _____, protection, and whether or not we are experience the _____ life He offers us.

The problem isn’t that God isn’t talking. The problem is our _____ to hear Him. The problem is our _____—sometimes we’re just not tuned in.

“God does speak, sometimes one way and sometimes another, even though people may not understand it.” (Job 33:14)

God isn’t _____ in how He speaks. In fact, the Bible records some pretty spectacular ways that God has communicated with His people.

Jesus appeared to them in an unfamiliar _____, at an unexpected _____, and their eyes and ears remained closed.

How often do we experience the same loss of hearing?

Maybe we have _____ ideas how God will speak or not speak to us—preconceived ideas that _____ our hearing Him when He does speak. We can’t put God in a _____; nor should we be too selective about the _____ He uses to speak us. Instead, we should be open for God to speak in whatever way He desires.

2 WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US

#1. God speaks through other _____.

- **God speaks to us is through His _____ who preach and teach His Word.**

“When we preached to you, you didn’t think of the words as being just our own, but

you accepted it as the very Word of God—which, of course, it was—and it changed your lives.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

A sermon is more than just a _____ or lecture—and biblical preachers believe that God is speaking through His _____, His Spirit, and through them, as they’re _____ to the task of preaching.

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14)

Without someone _____ the good news, believers and unbelievers alike have less chance of _____ God’s voice.

“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16)

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

How has God spoken to you through preaching and teaching?

- **God uses other people to speak to us through _____ and wisdom.** God wants us to pay attention to the _____ people in our lives—those who have consistently listened to Him and _____ Him. These wise counsellors have become _____ with God’s voice and can give us godly _____ that can aid us in making right _____.

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 24:6)

God often uses the counsel of other believers to _____ ambiguous areas or to give us the _____ that we’re truly hearing from Him.

These people speak “a word in due season,” to help us discern God’s voice or _____ what we already felt in our own spirit. He also uses others to help us hear His voice in order to remind us that we’re not _____—that we can’t go it on our own.

“Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (2 Corinthians 13:1)

If God has spoken something to you, He will usually _____ it through someone else because there’s power in _____.

“Again, I tell you if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:19-20)

As members of the Body of Christ, we’re _____ to each other and to the _____ God has placed over us. People who rarely ask for or take advice are often blinded by their own _____.

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed.” (Proverbs 15:22)

The purpose of a “multitude of counsellors” or “many advisors” is to receive a greater _____ of godly wisdom; and to _____ that wisdom.

Sometimes it’s difficult to know if we’ve heard from God _____ or if others have heard _____. We need _____ it—we need to ask God to confirm it.

Take it to someone you _____; someone who is _____ in their faith; whose life is an _____ of godly living.

Godly counsellors are those who _____ what they preach and have a proven track record of making good _____.

Godly counsellors are able to _____ God’s voice and confirm what He’s been speaking to you.

Godly counsellors are those who _____ the Lord and have proven that they can be trusted because they bear spiritual _____.

Godly counsellors aren’t just know-it-alls who like to tell other people what to do—they’re actually _____ about what happens after they give advice because they care about you and want you to _____.

How has God spoken to you through the godly counsel of someone else?

#2. God Speaks through _____.

“O Lord, listen to my prayers; give me the common sense you promised.” (Proverbs 119:169)

God gave us common sense wisdom as a _____. Common sense is the natural ability to look at things _____ frowardly; to make sound and prudent _____ based on a simple perception of the situation and facts; and to behave in a practical and _____ manner. Our previous experiences and _____ add to knowing intuitively what makes sense in a certain situation.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

God _____ to give us wisdom, and if we ask and _____ He’ll give it to us.

“Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And with your wisdom, develop common sense and good judgement.” (Proverbs 4:7)

“My child, don’t lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them, for they will refresh your soul. They are like jewels on a necklace.” (Proverbs 3:21-22)

“The words of the godly encourage many, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.” (Proverbs 10:2)

Listening to the common sense wisdom that comes from God will spare us a lot of heartache and _____. Common sense has a remarkable capacity to _____ our current situation in light of our _____ with God and His Word; and as we hear God speaking to us, we can make godly decisions rather than bad ones.

Common sense allows us we walk in the _____, to tune-in to God’s voice, and make decisions according to His _____ and _____.

“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15:28)

The audible _____ of God or a word of wisdom from someone isn’t needed when common sense wisdom is already telling me what to do.

TWO CAVEATS

- Not everything that seems like common sense will be the _____ of God
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- God can speak in ways that go _____ what we think is common sense.
How do you use the common sense wisdom that God’s given you? Did God ever speak something to you that seemed the opposite of common sense?

The Bible is the _____ by which we judge everything else in our life. It’s the standard we use to ensure that what we’re hearing is in line with God’s perfect _____. God’s written word never changes—we can trust it as the final _____ in all things—and we need to reject anything that _____ the written Bible.

**Do you long to hear God’s voice?
Have you heard Him speaking to you this morning?
What are you going to do about it?**

“Today, if you hear God’s voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Hebrews 3:15)