



Listen for the Voice of God

*Youth Ministries Day,
Transfiguration Sunday*

Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

February 11, 2018

Thought for the Week

"Now Sarah Abraham's wife bore him no children: and she had a handmaiden, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarah said unto Abraham, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abraham hearkened to the voice of Sarah." [Gen 16:1,2 – see also remainder of this chapter]

Two mistakes, and serious ones at that, did Abraham make in this instance. Number one... God had promised Abraham an heir but Abraham seemed not to have either the patience or the faith to wait for God's timing! Number two... he repeated the mistake that Adam once made – he chose to "hearken" to his wife instead of unto the Lord. How many go wrong because they simply want to please others? You must not even try to please those you love above hearing the voice of God – in all things!

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" [Matthew 16.15]

This is the real issue: who do you say he is? It doesn't matter what others say about him, or what your church, fellowship, wife, or friends say. Who do you say he is? Based on your answer, you are saved or lost, alive or dead. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God": do you know what that means? Do you know him, or do you just know about him? Be honest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." [Mtt.11:29-30]

A quote from Andrew Murray on these verses, which is illuminating: "It is not the yoke but resistance to the yoke that makes the difficulty"

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." [Mtt.4:1]

In the natural realm of Earth there are seasons: winter, spring, summer and autumn. Likewise in the spiritual realm, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness! Are we at present in this situation? In a desert place, where little seems to be happening? Well fear not, providing God has led you that way all is well, He has a purpose in it, you may not see what it is, but God is working it all out. In the wilderness we are to prove God, and unless we prove Him there we cannot do so in the easy places.

“Disciple or Churchman?”

There is a high price to be paid if one wishes to follow Jesus, as a disciple. You cannot have any ambition of your own; you are to simply be a follower. We have seen in the Scripture that we have to be prepared to say ‘goodbye’ to all we have if we are to follow Him. Yet how many only want a sort of Old Covenant ‘Christianity’; a going to church once or twice a week, and living a normal secular life otherwise? Is that what Jesus died and rose again for?

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” [Ecclesiastes 9:10]

There is wrong ‘pride’ and right ‘pride’. The first is to do with the arrogance and boastings of man, the latter is something that should be evidenced in every Christian’s life. We are saved; spirit, soul & body and that “so great salvation” should be evidenced in all three realms. In regard to the realm of the ‘natural’ we should indeed take ‘pride’ in our work – that is, a care and diligence in all that we do. Whether our work be ‘skilled’ (so-called), ‘unskilled’, technical, manual or whatever – we should consistently show the diligence and patience that is ours by the Spirit of God dwelling in us. Jesus was a carpenter the Scripture tells us. In fact the Greek word is TEKTON, which may equally be translated as ‘builder’ – interesting! I have no doubt whatsoever that Jesus’ ‘natural’ work was accomplished with all the same attributes that were evidenced in His spiritual work. And so should it be in us.

Happy Birthday Ashley (2/24)

Listen for the Voice of God

Here is a method that you can follow right in your own home:

You will be amazed when you journal so be sure to have a notebook and be aware that doubt may hinder you at first, but throw it off, remind yourself that it is a biblical concept, and that God is present, speaking to His children. Relax. When we cease our labors and enter His rest, God is free to flow (Heb. 4:10).

Why not try it for yourself, right now? Sit back comfortably, take out your pen and paper, and smile. Turn your attention toward the Lord in praise and worship, seeking His face. Many people have found that music and a visionary prayer will be helpful in getting them started. You can listen to your favorite meditation music and say your prayer.

After you write your question to God, become still, fixing your gaze on Jesus. You will suddenly have a very good thought. Don't doubt it; simply write it down. Later, as you read your journaling, you, too, will be blessed to discover that you are indeed dialoguing with God. If you wonder if it is really the Lord speaking to you, share it with your spouse or a friend. Their input will encourage your faith and strengthen your commitment to spend time getting to know your loving Father in Heaven more intimately than you ever dreamed possible.