

Listening for God's Voice

A Native American and his friend were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square. It was during the noon lunch hour and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said. "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes beneath the branches, and sure enough, there was a small cricket. His friend was utterly amazed. "That's incredible," said his friend. "You must have super-human ears!" "No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for." "But that can't be," said the friend. "I could never hear a cricket in all this noise."

"Yes you can," came the reply. "Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed that every person's head within twenty feet turned and looked to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" asked the Native American. "It all depends on what's important to you, and what you're listening for."

What's important to us? What do we listen for? Are there times that we fail to listen to God, because we are focused on other things that are more important to us? Regarding the Jews, Jesus said, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear." (Matthew 13:15-16; cf. Isaiah 6:9-10; Acts 28:26-27).

Brethren, amid the distractions of the world all around us, may our ears always be open, not only ready to listen for, but to hear and be obedient to God's voice as He speaks to us through His word (1 Samuel 3:9-10; cf. John 8:47; John 10:4; John 10:27; 1 John 4:6).~Mike Riley

Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
509-783-4013

Website: www.Kennewickcoc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Casey Rice

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



You Are Mistaken, Not Knowing the Scriptures

The Pharisees and Sadducees were the two major Jewish sects during the lifetime of Jesus. The Sadducees were more inclined toward the political matters of the day than they were the law of God (to which some Christians ought to take note today), but to their credit (at least in this small point), they followed a strict interpretation of the Pentateuch, as opposed to revering the oral traditions like the Pharisees. So, if anyone in that day would have had a good working knowledge of the books of Moses, it would have been the Sadducees—right?

In Matthew 22, right after the Pharisees tried to "entangle" Jesus (22:15-22), "The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him" (22:23). Notice how they begin their attempt to trap our Lord—they quote Scripture: "Teacher, Moses said..." (22:24). Then they proceeded to summarize the levirate marriage laws regulated by Moses in Deuteronomy 25:5-6, and then presented the Lord with an "impossible case" to solve in the implementation of that law, if there actually is a resurrection of the dead (which they did not believe). They were convinced that they (1) had indisputably proved their point and thus (2) had trapped Jesus in His own falsehood.

Look at how Jesus responds to their quotation and misapplication of Scripture: "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures" (22:29). They had taken a verse and completely misused that verse to teach something that GOD (i.e., the BIBLE) did not teach.

So, how did Jesus answer their error? He showed what the fullness of Scripture teaches. One verse of Scripture cannot (and does not) contradict another. The fullness of God's Word must be gathered (Psa. 119:160) and handled accurately (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17). Remember that the Sadducees only believed and followed the Pentateuch portion of the Old Testament. So, Jesus went to that section of Scripture and said, "But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?" (22:31-32). Jesus said that God said this "TO YOU." It's in your Bible! By quoting Exodus 3:6, Jesus allowed Scripture to prove that "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (22:32). The Bible clearly taught the resurrection!

When you get into a discussion with someone who has quoted a verse to you but the entirety of Scripture does not validate their conclusion from that one verse, Jesus taught us to use the fullness of Scripture. Let the Bible answer! It's not "my verse versus your verse." "The sum of God's Word is truth!" The best commentary on the Bible is...the Bible! ~David Sproule

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Pet. 5:6-8)

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	
Oct 17 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship	Kenneth Winstead 10/6 LaVern Engelke 10/8 Clarence Botts 10/22 Melinda Botts 10/25 Harvey Jones 10/25	Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled. Whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Those with ongoing health issues:

Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday a – 2 Samuel Wed p – Gospel of John	Young Adults class- Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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Keep **Jim Preston** in your prayers (and Holly) as he is continuing to struggle with vertigo and severe migraine headaches and is not responding to the treatments and medicines tried so far.

Keep **Karen McBurney** in your prayers. She suffered from an episode of her epilepsy again for the first time in 2 years last week and is recovering from that episode.

It was good to see Bill Lafferty back with us last week. Thank you God for answering prayers.

I understand the being a servant and working for the Lord and all that, but I don't know about this washing feet business.

Komedy Korner



OUR PRAYERS

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

Distracted With Much Serving

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me’ ” (Luke 10:38-40).

Do you ever feel burned out? Sometimes, we get so busy in our lives that we find ourselves feeling exhausted from all the activities going on in our lives. In such circumstances we might do well to heed the title of a song sung by the rock band, the Eagles: “Learn to Be Still”.

Jesus wants His disciples to be servants. Remember He said to His disciples, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28). However, can a Christian be involved in too much service? Spiritually, do we need to “Learn to Be Still”?

Luke records an event in Jesus' life where He is invited to the home of Martha. It was commendable for her to be “welcoming Him into her house” (Luke 10:38). Later, Martha's brother Lazarus would become terribly sick and Martha would demonstrate great faith in Jesus' power to heal him (John 11:3, 20-22). Jesus had great love for Martha (John 11:5). On this occasion record by Luke, Martha was even taking time to serve Jesus (Luke 10:40). There is much commendable about Martha.

However, Luke notes that Martha became “distracted by much serving” (Luke 10:40). In fact, she was so engrossed with serving that she became upset that her sister Mary was not engaged in what Martha judged to be her “fair share” of serving. Instead of being engaged in a lot of service like Martha, Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet listening to His Word (Luke 10:39). Martha must have thought, “How dare my sister not lift a finger to help me while I am doing all this work”. Martha even accuses Jesus of not caring that she was “pulling more weight” in service than her sister. She says to Jesus, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me” (Luke 10:40). Martha pleads with Jesus to tell her sister to “get up and get to work!”

How does Jesus respond? Does He tell Mary to get up and start serving? Unexpectedly, in Martha's eyes, Jesus says to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42). While it had been commendable for Martha to be a servant, Martha had allowed her service to overwhelm her to the point she began to be judgmental of others who were trying to take time to gain spiritual nourishment at the feet of Jesus. Martha herself need to “Learn to be Still”.

We have been called to be servants. The apostle Paul wrote, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). However, we should not become so engrossed in service that we don't have time to meditate and listen to God. I rejoice that God doesn't want me to suffer from spiritual burnout by being so focused on service that I don't have time to “recharge my batteries”. Today, I will also take time to “Learn to Be Still” and sit at the feet of the Lord! ~DAILY DEVO, Susquehanna church of Christ