



Part 2 - Silence

We Live in a _____ World

Proverbs 1:20-23. Mark 4:9 and 18-19

We Must _____ the Noise

I Kings 19:9-13; Psalm 131:1-3

We Must _____ our Plans and Priorities

Matthew 4:1-2 and 11; Matthew 26:39-41

D _____

A _____

W _____

G _____

Communion

II Corinthians 11:1-3 NLT

Next Week: Part 3 – Seasons _____



Consider Proverbs 1:20-23 and Proverbs 9:1-6 and 13-18. Here Wisdom is personified as female, and she is calling out in the noisy streets to the simple. Folly is crying out, too. What are the consequences if we listen to Folly? Listen to Wisdom? What is the 'noise' that prevents you from undistracted devotion?

Read the story of Elijah, the prophet, in I Kings 19:9-18. What is this teaching us about hearing the 'still small voice of God.'? God is not present in the earthquake, wind, or fire, but is present in the 'gentle whisper' (Hebrew 'daq demamah') which can be translated 'calm' or even 'silence.'

Why do we at times have trouble with solitude and silence? What is the difference between isolation and finding solitude for the purpose of hearing God's voice?

The iconic song 'Sounds of Silence' has an intriguing final verse. Does it relate somehow to the biblical truths taught Sunday?

How does the Spirit's leading of Jesus into the wilderness following His baptism by John demonstrate the need to understand God's plans and priorities for our lives? As a human, how would Jesus possibly been tempted NOT to go into the wilderness? Why?

Jesus challenged His disciples to spend an hour in prayer with him: 'The spirit is willing; the flesh is weak.' How could you spend some extended time with the Lord? Here are some ideas:

Go for a hike, walk or incorporate physical activity. Create something!
Pick just one book of the Bible and read it once or twice through
Take a journal and write your Scripture, experiences and prayers
Listen to uplifting music or read an uplifting book
Sign Scripture or Worship songs out loud
Write a letter to your younger self about what God is teaching you
Listen to a podcast that bolsters your understanding of Scripture
Invite the Lord into your pain. Celebrating your successes.
Immerse yourself in the Psalms ... begin with 42, 63 or 102