



The Mystery of Translating God

INTRODUCTION

DOES GOD SPEAK TO UNBELIEVERS?

- *The whole earth is full of His glory* (Isaiah 6:3). In other words, Christians are not the only ones.
- We have a biblical precedent for this situation. The Prophet Daniel spoke to the pagan king Nebuchadnezzar, telling him that it was God who gave dreams, and he proceeded to interpret a dream that would bring salvation for the whole nation and preserve Israel as well. What would happen if your unsaved friends could borrow your faith for a while? What if they could hear from God, even before they got saved?

This is the mystery of translating God's voice for those around you.

TALKING POINTS

Teaching Session 1

- God is interactive with all humanity. All the time He is speaking with us and even the very earth and universe are filled with His nature. But what does that mean for us?
 - God speaks to most people whether they are saved or not. They may not recognize it's Him, but that doesn't keep Him from speaking to them or having some sort of encounter with them.
 - ◇ Daniel really believed that evil Nebuchadnezzar could hear from God.
 - ◇ Joseph believed that Pharaoh had dreams from God that could be interpreted.
 - The Church right now has a mindset that believes that if we don't hear from God then the world won't have an encounter.
 - ◇ As a Christian, you may be able to look back and see how God was present and active in your life even before you came to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
 - Before you were saved, you didn't really understand that it was God that was touching your life, but you knew something different was happening to you.
 - ◇ Some of us didn't really know how to have an interactive relationship with God. We didn't understand that it was a love relationship.

- ◇ God has loved us from the beginning but it was we who separated ourselves from Him through sin.
- ◇ God wants to adopt us back into His family, so He is constantly interacting with us through dreams and encounters.
- As Christians, we can share what God's love is like through everyone's daily experiences where God's already presence.
 - ◇ What if we had the faith to believe that God is speaking to people, even unsaved ones, even in this present day and modern culture?
 - ◇ You may find yourself talking to someone who doesn't know God, and as you listen to them you may find that they have already had an encounter or received a dream from God, and help them understand that it was God, who wants them to know Him.

TALKING POINTS

TEACHING SESSION 2

- God wants to prepare our hearts to receive people who don't know God—or at least not the way we as Christians do.
 - Peter goes to Cornelius' house after God shows him the sheet that came down from heaven with all the different "unclean" foods on it.
 - ◇ All of us are born with original sin and original goodness.
 - ◇ Some people say that they are alright—they try to do good things and live right. That is partially true since they were born in the image of God even though they were separated from a life in God.
 - He has dreams for us, but we can't participate in them unless we know Him.
 - The Holy Spirit is called friend, comforter, and counselor. He's also the Spirit of revelation and wisdom.
 - ◇ He is the Spirit who brings complicated issues and makes them simple for the world around us.
 - As believers, we are hoping for God's government to change not just church culture, but the whole culture around us.
 - ◇ We hope that there will be Cornelius's waiting for us who are hearing from God and having encounters from God, that when we show up, they're ready.
 - When the children of Israel started to take the Promised Land, there were two types of obstacles before them.
 - ◇ Some of the places were already occupied—they had people living in them.
 - ◇ Some simply surrendered to them.

- There are two ways of inheriting in the places God wants us to go.
 - ◇ Occupy the territory—we're sent there to bring a word or message.
 - ◇ Recognize what God's doing in the first place. We help bring it under agreement.
- When we think we have to be the originators all the time, then we risk not seeing the mercy of God.
 - ◇ God is sovereign all the time. He is moving all the time, with or without us. But He does want cooperation from the Church.
 - ◇ We can get a way of thinking that says if we don't go, they won't get saved—God's not capable.
 - ◇ But He loves us so much, that He sent His Son into the world to save us, and His Holy Spirit to hover over the whole world so there could be His presence and a nature He originally designed.
- We can start to restore God's original design in the earth but we can't believe that we are the ones doing it all.
 - ◇ God is speaking right now to all of humanity.
 - ◇ That's why we can interpret dreams. We can explain an encounter, comfort someone.
 - ◇ But we are not the Comforter, not the Counselor, not Wisdom—that is the nature of the Holy Spirit.
- God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that we could have relationship with Him.
 - ◇ He sent Him at a time when no one was really thinking much about God.
 - ◇ Israel had not heard from God for over two or three hundred years.
 - ◇ Jesus shows up then and starts telling people that there is place being prepared in Heaven where they will dwell with Him forever.
 - ◇ This is a God who wants real relationship with them, not one who wants them to do a lot of works for Him.
- Even before redemption was available, He spoke these things to unbelievers.
 - ◇ The very people who denied Him He said were His joy.
 - ◇ He has invested so much into this scenario of humanity through His love for us, that He constantly interacting with us right now.

- We are to try and translate what we know about Him to others.
 - ◇ Think of Joseph and Pharaoh—Joseph believe the men in the dungeon with him had read dreams from God, so he interpreted their dreams for them.
 - ◇ Pharaoh loved Joseph’s interpretation of his dream so much that he put him in a position where he could save his family from the famine.
 - ◇ Their relationship grew because Joseph valued Pharaoh.
 - ◇ Joseph never halted in His mission because he didn’t like all the pagan worship and demonic activity.
- We need to be like Joseph in this generation rather than having an “us and them” mentality.
 - ◇ God is on the move in humanity, and all we have to do is to just show up. When we show up, God will show off!
 - ◇ We’re called to be some of the most trusted advisors to humanity.
 - ◇ Jesus spent his last few hours on earth with His disciples at the last supper rather than with God or Praying for Himself, even though He knew they would deny Him.
 - ◇ God is not concerned with our performance, He is concerned with His investment in us.

TALKING POINTS Teaching Session 3

- We need to be like God with humanity. We need to say to them, God wants to speak, He wants to love, and He’s speaking not only through us, but He’s speaking to humanity when they are ready to have a revelation, a translation of where God is now.
 - ◇ He loves them and is chasing them already—we don’t have to make sure they are saved. We just have to show up and be there for them with God’s love. We’re not selling salvation.
 - ◇ Sometimes you’re called to just plant or water, but not reap.
 - ◇ We are to simply translate God’s love to the world around us.