

HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US

Job 33:14

April 13, 2008 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Last week we began a four part study on how to hear God's voice. We examined Jesus' parable of the sower and found four things we must do if we want to hear God's voice.
1. First, be open to the possibility that God's wants to speak to us.
 2. Second, set aside time to hear God speak.
 3. Third, cut out some of the distractions in our lives.
 4. Fourth, say yes to God's voice before we hear it.
- B This week we want to see how God talks to us.
1. Many years ago TIME magazine ran an article declaring that "God is Dead". A reporter went to interview Billy Graham and asked him if God was really dead. Dr. Graham responded, "Are you kidding? I just talked to God this morning."
 2. The Bible confirms that God is not dead and that he talks to us in several different ways—Job 33:14.

I. HOW DOES GOD TALK TO US?

- A. God is not limited to any single way to speak to us. The Bible says God has spoken in some very spectacular ways...
1. Through a burning bush.
 2. Through a cloud.
 3. Through angels.
 4. Through a pillar of fire.
 5. Even through a donkey.
- B. Today, lets consider four ways God still speaks to us.
1. First, God speaks through the Bible.
 - a. This is God's number one way to speak-2 Timothy 3:16.
 - b. This is why its so important to have a daily quiet time.
 - c. In the days of ice houses, large blocks of ice were hauled into cellars and covered with saw dust. One day a man lost his watch in the ice cellar and couldn't find it. Later a young boy brought his watch to him. When asked how he found it, he replied, "I laid down on the sawdust and got real quiet, then I could hear the watch ticking.
 - d. Get a new translation of the Bible, a study Bible like "The Life Application Bible, and start in the New Testament.
 - e. Its also imperative to get involved in a small group Bible study.
 - f. Any time someone says they never hear God speaking they are really confessing they don't read their Bible much.
 2. Second, God speaks through other people, like teachers and preachers.
 - a. A dad asked his young son before bed one night if he ever heard God speak to him. The boy said sure. The dad asked, well what does God say to you. His son replied, "John quiet down and go to sleep. It was then the dad remembered how quiet his son would get when he came to his bedroom door at night and say, John, quiet down and go to sleep.
 - b. God often speaks through other people-I Thessalonians 2:13 & I Corinthians 2:13
 - c. This makes it important that you open yourself to as many teachers, preachers, and godly friends as you can—not just on Sunday mornings.

3. Third, God speaks through impressions.
 - a. This means God speaks to our minds—John 14:26.
 - b. Beware, however, of those people who are too quick to claim that God told them to do such and such.
 - c. Be sure to also test your impressions, because they may not be from God at all. We will talk more about this next week.
4. Fourth, God speaks through our pain.
 - a. Why? Because all too often we don't change when we see the light. We only change when we feel the heat—Proverbs 20:30.
 - b. Not all pain is God speaking to us, but some of it is.
 - c. **C. S. Lewis describes the role of suffering in the life of the believer as “soul-making.” It is the shaping of the Christian with the hammer and chisel of adversity. Lewis also said “God whispers to us in our pleasures; speaks in our consciences; but shouts in our pains.”—Psalms 119:67, 71.**

II. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HEAR GOD SPEAKING TO US?

- A. First, it demonstrates we are in God's family—John 10:14 & 16.
- B. Second, it protects us from making serious mistakes—Job 33:14-18.
- C. Third, it helps us lead a productive life—John 15:5.

CONCLUSION

- A. God is not dead as many would like to believe.
- B. God is alive and continues to speak to us.
 1. Through the Bible.
 2. Through other people.
 3. Through our minds.
 4. Through pain.