

SHHH...BE STILL !

Psalm 46:10 I Kings 19:11-13

Introduction: The Old Testament had much to say about being still and quiet in order to hear God speak. Our past history speaks of men and women taking part of every day to read God's Word in stillness and quietness and thus gaining inward assurance. There has never been a time in history when stillness was needed as much as today and yet so hard to find.

Jesus offers His presence and power as much today as to the fishermen on the quiet Sea of Galilee or to the shepherds in the quiet plains of Judea. To experience His presence we have to get **still** and **quiet** enough to hear His voice, then to believe and obey that which we hear Him speak.

I. IN SPITE OF TODAY'S NOISY LIFESTYLE THINGS ARE BEING LEARNED

1. People are becoming scientists, engineers, astronauts, architects, pilots, athletes, musicians, professors, politicians, teachers, etc.
 - Noise and activity is a part of life and adjustment is automatic, even unnoticeable.
 - Noise and activity is the lifestyle of today
2. . When a person suddenly realizes that there is more to life than the noise and rush and begins to look around thoughts of God begin to come.
 - If/when a person finds God something strange and wonderful happens:
 - The closer to God one gets, the more one realizes that there are really no differences as the world seems to show. All are human beings with the same need.
 - In a flash everything is gone and one is standing exactly where Adam and Eve stood in God's presence, guilty of being a sinner and breaking His laws.
3. So, here stands a human being surrounded by all the noise and activities of the world which, in the presence of God, can do nothing to provide a Savior who is desperately needed.

II. TODAY'S EVANGELISM METHODS CAN BE DANGEROUS

1. Any idea that the Church must change with the times is dangerous such as:
 - Christian methods must be changed as people change.
 - 10 minute sermons if that is what the people want.
 - Scripture in little doses if that is what is wanted.
 - Plenty of pictures if that is what the people want.
 - Stories if that is what is wanted.
 - Drama, plays, movies, if that is what the people want.
 - Choruses instead of Hymns if that is what the people want.
 - The explanation: The message is the same, the method has been changed.
2. Since there is no stillness or quietness in our society, we must learn to get along without it.
 - Gone are the still waters and quiet pastures of the past.
 - The noise and rush of today are too much to hear the still, small voice of God.

- "God is going to have to speak above the noise and activity of today" say today's spiritual advisors.
- After all, aren't what we are doing what Paul said he was doing? "trying to be all things to all men that by any means some shall be saved?" is the logic.

III. FORGOTTEN TODAY IS THAT THE SOUL OF MAN DOES NOT CHANGE

1. The savage in the jungle, the teacher in the classroom, the truck driver in traffic, the farmer in the fields, the factory worker in the factory, all have the same basic need:
 - to be rid of their sins, to be made right with God and to have eternal life in heaven.
 - Trying to bring today's noise and activities into harmony with God's **only** way for man to be restored is disasterous.
2. The Christian experience takes place in the soul with the spirit, far away from the noise and bustle of today's life style.
 - That part of man which only God can change is waiting to hear the small, quiet voice of God.
3. Today's Christianity talks the language of the Bible, but applies today's opinions and definitions of man and God.
 - Sin is not a bad thing and everybody does it. Everyone is getting better. Jesus is a friend and benefactor in the sky, etc.
4. In God's eyes and in His Word, facts have not changed.
 - People are still what they have always been - sinners in the image of God.
 - Jesus is still who He always has been and will be, Savior, Son of God.
 - Eternity is still there with Heaven and Hell.
 - Everybody is still going to spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell.

CONCLUSION:

1. Where the Bible speaks of "being still" there is always noise and commotion before hand: earth shakes, water roars, mountains quake, nations rage, sounds of war and then: "be still and know that I am God."
2. Nothing has changed between God and the human soul.
 - When the voice of God is heard it will not be in the noise and activity of today's lifestyle.
 - Jesus never shouted or cried out or raised His voice in the streets.
3. To hear God's voice, one has to get still and be quiet inside where the heart and soul are.