

## Devotional Presentation for 21 Days of Prayer

Main Idea: Humility of Mind towards God

Put the umbrella up over my head.

Amos 4:13 says, "For behold, He who forms mountains, and creates the wind, Who declares to man what His thought *is*, and makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth. The Lord God of hosts *is* His name."

- God willingly gives His thoughts and His mind to those who desire to listen to Him
- Many people do not hear God's thoughts because they ignore, reject, or refuse them as Micah 4:11-12 says, "Now also many nations have gathered against you (*Israel*).....But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord, nor do they understand His counsel;"
- This is sad because David had a wonderful experience of God's thoughts. Psalms 139:17 says, "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"

Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" Matthew 4:4. Whether God speaks by a still, small voice; a thought from God; or a passage from Scripture made alive to us by the Holy Spirit, they all are proceeding from the mouth of God and if we receive them, believe them, and obey them they will bring life to us.

Umbrella over the head – illustration

Isaiah 55:9, "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

What shall we label this umbrella since there is no rain falling: Importance of our own thoughts, ideas, desires, and experiences.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7

- Hearing God clearly involves fasting from the importance of our own thoughts, desires, and experiences.
- Our attitude towards God must be one of humility if we are to hear His voice clearly. Micah 6:8 tells us to "walk humbly with our God". When we are seeking God for a clear word, we need to approach Him laying down all our preconceived notions and ideas. Ask yourself this question, If someone came to you asking for counsel about a particular direction in their life and then began to tell you their very strong opinions about this direction, how easy would it be for you to speak to them? This is often God's problem with Christians who want to hear God's voice, but their own thoughts and ideas are speaking so loudly about what they want that they can't hear God speaking. It would be kind of rude in a conversation if you asked a question and then kept speaking so that you couldn't hear the answer. People are rude towards God very often.
- Jesus lived a perpetual fast from the importance of His own human thoughts and opinions. He says in John 5:19, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." And in John 14:10, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."
- Nothing will hinder hearing God more than when we are opinionated or critical. We need to live without a critical or judgmental spirit. When it comes to hearing God, our opinion is secondary. We must look at what He is saying without bias or speculation. We often are so quick to give our opinions that we leave no room for God's mind in certain matters. Jesus gave us a different example, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." John 5:30
- When the woman was caught in adultery, the Pharisees brought her to Jesus for His judgment on what they should do with her. Jesus did not respond right away. Fasting from His own opinions, He stooped down, writing on the ground, taking time, I believe, to hear from His Father what the Father's response would be. The Father's word was, "You who are without sin cast the first stone"
- Christians are not separated from God though many live under that illusion. The Bible says that we are in Christ and that He is in us. Nothing is impossible with Him and we can easily hear and think His thoughts. Col. 2:10 tells us, "and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." The devil and wrong teaching has sabotaged the Christian from the reality that God, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, is working within us 24/7. If you have been too opinionated, distracted, or preoccupied, then repent from that and freely begin to receive God's thoughts more and more.

- If you would like to learn more about hearing the voice of God, then check out life groups this next month as there will be groups which go into this area much more extensively than what we can do in 10 minute devotionals.

### Prayer Charge

Father, thank you for your correction to us today. We are your children and we need your fatherly correction at times so we embrace that today. We ask that You forgive us for the times where we placed too much importance on our own thoughts, desires, and experiences and let that hinder hearing Your clear word to us. The problem is certainly not with you, Lord. You are more than ready to give us Your thoughts just as You did to David. Some of us have said, "No", to You when You spoke to us and so You stopped speaking. The Holy Spirit is saying to those who have done that to go back to that place and say, "Yes" to God and be obedient to Him. He would love to begin speaking to you once more.

Father, we want to trust You more than our own thoughts, ideas, and experiences but we confess that it is difficult for us to do that. Help us Lord to learn to walk in humility with You, trusting that You have only our best at heart as You promised us that You would give us a "future and a hope".

You have said in Your word, "'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" We open ourselves to all that You have for us, Lord. You further say in Your word, "God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God." Father, we want everything that You want to give us through the Spirit of God. We repent from false ideas about Your Spirit's workings. We open ourselves to Your supernatural realm and we ask for Your revelation and understanding to permeate our thoughts.

We pray now for that future for us as a church. You have given us a plan through Pastor Mike but we do not yet know the details or the timing. Father, continue to speak to all of us regarding Your will in this church expansion. It is your church, Jesus. We are just stewards of the manifold grace of God. Let us hear Your voice in these things so that You may receive the glory for all that is done.

Pray for the Sunday service.

Pray for healing for those needing it.