

Introduction :

1. Thank you, Anthem

- (1) Joseph = not a coincidence
- (2) God is with us

2. What has God been saying to you?

- (1) Better question: can you hear Him well in this season?
- (2) I've been saying I hear Him well in this season... how do you affirm that.

3. How God speaks?

- (1) Out of thin air out (you're up Beverly!)
- (2) We know He speaks to Christians through the Holy Spirit, but what does that look like?
 1. Could be from ourselves (culture)
 2. Could be from Satan
 3. Could be from God

(3) According to the Bible (SLIDE 1)

1. Through Himself (theophany)

Gen. 1:27-28 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

2. Through Creation

Psalms 19:1-2 - The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge...

3. Through signs & wonders

Matthew 2:2 - "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ** Disclaimer*

4. Through messengers

1 Peter 4:11 - Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(1) Angels (2) Prophets

(3) Pastors (4) Other Christians

5. Through dreams & visions

Numbers 12:6 - And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.

6. Through prayer & meditation

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

7. Through & according to Scripture

2 Peter 1:20-21 - Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

I. God speaks to people (v1-15)

1. To lift you (v1-14a)

(1) After 2 whole years (v1, 14a)

1. OT is full of this question:

Ps. 13:1 - How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever...

2. God is not on our time

3. But He is always on time

4. Speaks to lift your heart before pain

Lazarus
John 11

(2) God doesn't always speak same way

1. Many of us have different ways we historically hear God

1 Kings 19:11-13 - And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

★ Turn down noise

2. The difference between earth, wind, fire & small, still, voice slows progression in Elijah's relationship

Low vs
Grace



Heb. 12:18-20, 24 - For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned"... and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

1. He only "seems" silent, but it may just be He's speaking differently

Job 33:14 - For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.

2. To change you (v14b-15)

(1) Change your identity

1. Finally got hair, beard, & shampoo!

2. Straight razor cut

3. The Bible says this:

John 15:3 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

4. Esther, Joseph

5. When things are hard, we don't see ourselves or God rightly. God speaks into that distortion to bring changed perspective.

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Same is
not a
Kingdom
currency

6. What about your thinking about yourself, in this season, is He trying to change

(2) Change your living

1 Samuel 15:22 - And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

1. Maybe the problem isn't that you can't hear God, maybe the problem is you don't like what He's saying.

2. What is He asking you to change that you don't want to?

II. God speaks through people

1. To instruct others (v16-32, 39)

(1) Can we speak for God?

(2) "It is not in me" (v16, v39)

Messengers

1. God's wisdom doesn't originate from you, but flows thru you

2. Your ability (what you know) & your capacity (how well you know it) are extremely limited

(3) "But God will give the answer"

1. You need to be careful with instructions, in seasons of hard or neglected devotion

2. You have responsibility to know the Bible, so you know what to say

James 3:1 - Not many of you should become teachers...for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

2. To involve ourselves

(1) Christian instruction presumes Christian involvement

1. Service, not just suggestions (v33-37, 40-41, 43-49)

2. Difficulty is severe, not just subtle (v53, 56)

III. God speaks for people (not behalf, but because)

1. For his glory (v 38 - 39)

(1) God is at the center of Joseph's worldview:

1st major reason God speaks to us at all

1. v 16 - God is why he's wise
2. v 25, 28 - God is why he's here
3. v 32a - God is why it will happen
4. v 32b - God is why it will work

Rom. 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

(2) God begins to become part of Pharaoh's worldview

1. If you allow God to speak to you for your good, He will eventually speak through you for other's good

2. Which is the 2nd major reason God speaks to us at all...

2. For our good (v 57, 54)

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

(1) What things...

Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

(2) So, when God speaks... it's always for your good... even when... especially when... things are hard

Conclusion

SLIDE 2

1. Discerning His voice is more about confirmation than anything else

(1) Concentrate on His voice thru prayer

Psalm 145:18 - The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

(2) Confirm His voice thru Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

(3) Clarify His voice thru community

1. Pastors
2. Brothers/Sisters

2 Timothy 4:2 - Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

(4) Repeat, as necessary

2. What is God saying to you today?

(1) If you're outside the family, come inside a family

(2) if you're inside the family, go outside the family