



THE SILENCE BEFORE THE NOISE

The Silence Before the Noise

Scripture Readings

Joshua 6:10 (NKJV)

10 Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

Acts 1:4-5 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit Promised

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Introduction

This week marks a time of commemoration and remembrance of Pentecost. For the Jews it is a time of feasting. For the Christian, it is a time to remember when the Holy Spirit interrupted the festivities and the Power of the Holy Spirit broke out on the Disciples in the upper room and began speaking in unlearned tongues to those nation representatives that were gathered in Jerusalem. The Church was born with 3000 newly converted souls plus those in the upper room. And for the first time since Jesus' Death and Resurrection and Ascension, the disciples began to see the Power of God moving amongst them. The key was in their obedient waiting.

The Wall of Waiting

In both Scriptures there is a principle nestled into the texts that teach us that, for us to receive the promised things of God, the powerful miracles, the momentous shift that He brings, there is a requirement to WAIT.

- Waiting can seem like a wall in and of itself.
- The barrier between "you shall have it" and "not yet"
- The restrictive reins on being hasty
 - oh how we want to just gallop into the unknown terrain with no guidance or preparation
- Joshua and Israel had to obediently wait
- The disciples in the upper room had to obediently wait
- Psalms 27:14 (NKJV) 14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

No Deviations or Departures

- The Lord required Israel to not deviate from the instructions or the circular course given to them to circle Jericho
- Jesus told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the Promise of the Father
- We can be easily be deceived to deviate or depart from what God has asked us to do because:
 - we feel as if our efforts are not working
 - it's taking too long
 - maybe there's another way to get results faster
 - doing it this way seems too uncomfortable
- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
[even if that path is a circular one]

The Pedometer of Prayer

- While the disciples were in the upper room, they were praying
- Many days of prayer and seeking the Lord
- It was not just a waiting around for something to happen
- It was a prayerful focus so that when God did something, they wouldn't miss it
- The pedometer of prayer matters!
 - the diligent steps of sacrificial prayer illicit a reward from the Lord
- Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The Silence Before the Noise

- Sometimes it seems like God's way of doing things is not in keeping with other strategies of momentum.

- Why after other LOUD victories would God have Israel be silent for this one?
- Why after Christ's resurrection and 40 days of visible signs that "He is back"" would there be a departure, His ascension, followed by a period of waiting behind closed doors?
- The Peculiar Patterns of the Holy Spirit lead us to depend on His leading and not our logic.
- What was coming was not earthly
- What was coming was not normal
- What was coming was not man made or politically driven
- What was coming was supernatural, transformational and conceived in the Heart and Mind of God for His people and the saving of the nations