Encounter Church
Sunday November 08, 2026

Above the Noise
"When God Seems Silent"

Job 23:3 (NLT)- "If I only knew where to find God,.."

Job 23:8,9 (NLT)- "I go east, but he is not there. I go west, but I cannot find him.
I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden. I look to the south, but he is concealed."

Job experienced some real tragedy in his life and while in the middle of it, GOD SEEMS SILENT!

Another guy who experienced a season of his life he probably didn't understand was Joseph in the Old Testament of your Bible.

God gave him a dream. You can read about it in Genesis 37.

We all have these encounters with God where He breaks into our lives with power and answers our prayers and wins our trust and waters the garden of our faith, making it lush and green.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO JOSEPH. SOUNDS EXCITING!

Yet his brothers hated him and were jealous and threw him into a pit.

And God seemed silent!

Then these same brothers sold him into slavery.

And God seemed silent!

Joseph is then taken to Egypt and he was purchased by and Egyptian Officer named Potiphar.

Joseph serves Potiphar faithfully and then he's wrongfully accused of rape by Potiphar's wife. (Genesis 39)

And God was silent

Then based on a false accusation, Potiphar takes Joseph and throws him into prison.

And God was silent!

For over two years Joseph is in this prison for something he did not do!

Yet God is silent!

THEN SUDDENLY!!!

Joseph is called upon to interpret the dream of Pharaoh and because of this Joseph is released from prison and put in charge of the whole land of Egypt! **SUDDENLY!**

And because of this the dream God gave Joseph before his brothers threw him in the pit is fulfilled!

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

1. It Doesn't Mean He's Not There.

God's silence doesn't mean God's absence!

Genesis 39:21 (NLT)- "But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden."

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)- "….Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

John 14:16 (NLT)- "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you."

God's silence is not God's absence

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

2. It Doesn't Mean He's Not Working.

In fact God does some of His best work when He's silent! HIS WORK IN YOU!

Psalms 105:19 (NLT)- "Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character."

(TPT)- "God's promise to Joseph purged his character until it was time for his dreams to come true."

When God is silent it doesn't mean he's not working! HE'S WORKING IN YOU!!

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)- "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

God is working in you and for you because He wants to work through you!

God was working in Joseph preparing him for the dream!

HERE'S SOME REALLY GOOD NEWS

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)- "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

When God is silent it doesn't mean He's not there and it doesn't mean He's not working!

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

3. He Has a Plan

(Story of Joseph's brothers coming to Egypt because of the famine.)

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)- "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT HE HAS A PLAN!!

Romans 8:28,29 (TPT)- "So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose. For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him."

When God is silent He still has a plan for your life! He's with you and He's working in you!

SO…WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

4. Don't Quit

If it's not good God's not done!

James 1:2-4 (NLT)-"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested,

your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."

Don't quit God is working in you and He has a plan!!!!

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JOSEPH AND GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU!

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

5. Keep Dreaming

You see, what Joseph had was a dream. It's what God had already spoke to him!

When it seemed our ministry was falling apart and we didn't understand, what I had was a DREAM. It's what God had already spoken to me.

(Share Dreams)

Numbers 23:19 (NLT)- "God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID TO ME SPEAKS TO ME WHEN HE SEEMS SILENT IN MY CURRENT SITUATION!

CONCLUSION: God speaks to His children! We are His sheep and we know His voice! But there are times when it seems God is silent!

1. That doesn't He's not there! He will never leave you.
2. It doesn't mean He's not working! This is when He does His best work!
3. God does have a plan!
4. Don't quit!
5. Keep Dreaming the Dream!