

Seen in the Silence

Now I can't give you the Bible verse we are going to study today just yet. Because I have to set the stage first. But let me go ahead and give you this morning the title the Lord gave me.

Seen in the Silence | Here is an alternative title, and its a confession: I am going to see it

Lets pray: Speak lord your people are listening. Amen

The reason I could not begin by reading a Bible verse today is because the moment in scripture that fascinated me this week in my study, was a period of history where there was no scripture written. A period of years called the silent years.

400 years from the final verse in Malachi to the first verses we see in Matthew.

400 years of perceived silence. 400 years of no prophet and not scripture.

Now of course the Lord did prophesy through the prophet Amos in Amos chapter 8:11

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God,

"That I will send a famine on the land,

Not a famine of bread,

Nor a thirst for water,

But of hearing the words of the Lord."

I came this morning to speak to anyone who feels like they are in a famine.. Anyone who feels like you have been starved of the words of the Lord. Anyone who feels the ache of struggling to hear from God. Anyone who is considering the option that maybe God just doesn't care about me.. You maybe have been feeling like that for 400 seconds, 400 hours, 400 days, 400 months, but we have a 400 year period in scripture.

Now I got beef with whoever decided to label the 400 years as the silent years. I got some other options we could have gone with. Like God didn't send a prophet 400 years. Or God told the people fine... You ain't listen to my prophets then I am going to work in a different method. I don't know,

but we give God a bad wrap and we give ourselves a bad perception of God when we let a famine of an aspect of His voice void us from being able to recognize His activity still in our life.

Silence doesn't equal absence.

Car ride scenario

In theory lets say you were way to church this morning

Let's say someone's husband woke up late

Let's say someone's family was waiting on the husband to shower and fix their hair and put on deodorant

Let's say that said family rushed out the door got in the car and their was a verbal disagreement and lashing out of frustration

Then lets just say the verbal communication ended

But everyone other than the driver did what, they turned a shoulder outward and stared out the window

Oh silence means that the most common aspect of communication had ceased and grown cold but everyone's activity is still relaying a message.... We aren't happy..

Hear me, just because God didn't have a prophet for 400 years doesn't mean he wasn't still at work and active,

God even when He SEEMS silent is still active in your STORY..

when God seems silent because He isn't speaking how you've grown to know Him to speak remind yourself just because He isn't speaking how you expect Him to doesn't mean He isn't still engaged in your life how He has promised to be.

And I hate how we give off the impression that God disengaged humanity for 400 years. Or how our brain will play tricks on us and get us to believe that God isn't still revealing Himself in certain seasons. Because in the middle of what historians call the silent years God came and revealed Himself to a man named Simeon.

Luke 2:25

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Hear me.. In the middle of a famine of the word of God as people have known it. In the middle of a famine of the word of God as people have told you you have to receive it. In the middle of a famine of the word of God as has grown common... I have good news... God can still find men and women in the middle of famines. Because those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled.

Just

dikaiois is to be in accordance with God's law

If it feels like you're in famine of God's voice right now,

Don't let your expectation of HOW grow greater than your appreciation of WHO

The famine came from a place of familiarity.

Lex and I's marriage counseling this week...

When it becomes common we become complacent. And our focus becomes on our expectation instead of our appreciation. Simeon appreciated what others called common...

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint. But happy is he who keeps the law.

When I don't know what He is saying, I do what I know He already has said.

When I don't know what He is saying, I listen to what He already said.

When I don't know, I go to what I know. Common Word! Miracle! Common Grace! Miracle!

Common Kindness of God! Miracle! Common Salvation! Miracle! I won't call it common. I am calling it MIRACLE! I won't cast off restraint. I won't become calloused or casual. I will appreciate the common.

I don't complain for what I don't have yet, I consecrate my life to the thing He has already given me.

Luke 2:26

25...Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel (prosdechomai is used to describe the act of receiving something)

Act like it. God's not speaking... Act like someone He speaks to...

Act righteous.

Act holy.

Act blameless.

Act as someone who reads your word

Act as someone who prays

Act as someone who is gonna receive.

I need you to act like it.

He appreciated the common enough to act consecrated.

Luke 2:26

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Counselor

I got good news for you this morning because the Baby of Christmas grew up to be the Savior of Easter and the Sender of the Spirit the Holy Spirit isn't just up on you HES ALL UP IN YO BUSINESS. He lives on the inside of every Jesus follower... You have the great counselor. And this is what the counselor will do in your life. He will watch this:

26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

When you are on the right road of common appreciation the Holy Spirit will reveal to you.

To the one trying to control it...

- right road over the right time = revelation
 - The fog is going to lift
 - YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT
 - You can just keep going
 - But what if today was the day
 - What if today was the step
 - What if today was the moment it all started getting clear
 - Everyday could be the day
 - Luke 2:27 can happen any day now

Luke 2:27

²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

Carry is Coming

When you carry it, you are going to see how God was working in the silence.

When you carry it, its all gonna make sense.

The time spent in the common became the pieces of perceiving God's in this.

I can see it now.....

- WHY LIBERAL KANSAS... Felt like a famine.
- I can see it now. Seek until you SEE