

Scripture Reference: Ezekiel 3:4-11

Date: September 30, 2012

Title: "God Speaks"

Focus: God speaks to humanity.

Intro:

1. YHWH spoke to Ezekiel, a sixth century prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah. What form this interchange took is unimportant for the moment. What is important is here we see God speaks to humanity

2. How radical and revolutionary might this be to a person's life? What would it mean in everyday living if a person walked through life looking to hear from God?

Body:

Listening for God's Voice

- The very thought of listening for God sound mystical and otherworldly. How would one go about it?

- What does it look like anytime a person is attentive to the voice of another?

There is anticipation; A person expects to hear and listens for that voice.

There is a "tuning out" of sounds that are not being listen for; Sounds that are unrelated to what are listening for are quickly and readily dismissed.

There is almost a distraction from present matters; While a person is attentive to what is going on, they have one ear listening for that sound/voice.

- Being a citizen of the Kingdom while residing in this world requires the extra measure of attention for God's voice.

What Can Be Learned from Ezekiel's Encounter:

God is willing to reveal Himself to people.

- Is this still true or was it only for Bible times?

Romans 8:16 *"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."*

James 1:5 *"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

- People are reminded to seek such an interchange with God?

God has the capacity to make Himself known.

- God speaks in our language. This means more than He knows English, Spanish, Swahili, etc.

- God speaks to those who will listen in a manner that will *resonate* with that person. This is a point behind the account of Balaam and the donkey. – Numbers 22

When God speaks, there is certainty about it.

- There was no doubt in Ezekiel's mind it was God who was speaking. – Ezekiel 1:3
- Eight times in four verses Ezekiel uses the words, "said," "speak," "heard," or "say." – Ezekiel 2:1-5

There was clarity of communication on God's part and of understanding on Ezekiel's

- Without confusion, God conveyed to Ezekiel what He wanted to say.
- Without difficulty, Ezekiel knew immediately what YHWH was calling upon him to do.
- This doesn't mean effort is not required. What it means is if a person wants to hear God, he or she can.

Man has the ability to recognize God's voice and respond.

- In part, this is what it means to be created in God's image.
- People, distinct from all creation, have the capacity to connect with God, to communicate with Him, person to person. – Heb. 4:15 / Romans 8:26-27

Closing:

1. God speaks. This is amazing news! That God still speaks holds great promise for life.
2. People must be aware that God still speaks and learn to tune themselves to listen for what He has to say.