

GOD SILENCES MAN

Luke 9:33-35

INTRODUCTION:

This is a noisy world in which we live. There is so much talk, so much noise, that you never have time to stop and be quiet and still.

Therefore, silence and quiet are not easy to come by. Words, words, words are everywhere. Even in the church, it is good to be quiet sometimes. One of the royal chaplains in Scotland asked (King Edward VII) what his majesty would like the chaplain to preach about on the following Sunday. The King replied in three words --- about 20 minutes. Now the King may have been wiser than we imagine. Because it is good to take time to be quiet - even in church.

I read a story about the first radio. The story said that when was the first radio invented. And the explanation was, when God took a rib from Adam and made woman. Now this may have been part of Paul's reason in I Cor. 14:28 when he said let the women keep silent in the church. If there is something they want to know, let them ask their husbands at home.

In another place he said about this gift of tongues. It is better for a man to keep silent in church if there was no interpreter to explain it.

Know the counsellor, this is one of the characteristics, if he is going to be a good one - is to learn how to be silent and listen.

At the W. M. U. meeting last week, one of the resolutions read out by the President was - learn to listen more and (talk less.)

Noisy World - T.H. Radio -

C-Scotland and King Edward VII - Book about 20 Min.

Story 1st Radio - told to Ich A + Monk Woman.

Paul "Get (W) Keys" "a Lowd Speaker"

Counsellor - Listen.

W.M. W. Resolution - Learn to Listen Mouth Talking

Silent Movie - Cowboy - 6 gun - Coyote - with Behind -

O.T. - Job 30ch. men'

N.T. - Peter - Carnal, Mt. Transfiguration

V. 28 - 3 Men - Peter - ear, ear, Pierced
crucified head down.

JAMES - Pastor - Jeremiad

Book -

JOHN - Gospel - Rev.

V. 29 Prayer - attend - Changed -

V. 30 - 3 Great Fij. History

Jesus - Grace.

Moses - Law - Birth, 40y

rod ~~no~~ Plagues - Sinai - Face Shone
did Mt. Neb.

Elijah - Prophets - Rain 3y.

Mt. Carmel - still small voice.
Chariot fire -

V. 31 - Talked of his Exodus -

V. 33 - Peter killed - God before -

Proposal - To burnads - Mummum

V. 35 God tells Peter Be Quiet -

Hear him -
(Cloud) Pillar - Temple -

2 Things - Reasons God Chose

1- Hear about Mission of Jesus

Jer - Cross -

2. Hear about Mission of Peter

Heb ^{2:14-20} Lord Holy Temple, let earth keep silent

Dallas - Man Died Steps

⑦ Who was he, Name, Clinton, etc -

O bind or will want to give
(Clinton ^{to} Lord)

Now some of you people remember silent movies. I am sure that all of young people have read about them or have been introduced to some re-runs, of silent movies. It would be something if some of them could be silent today. I read about an old Texas cowboy who never learned how to read. And one day he went in to attend one of these silent movies, and the first picture play that he had ever seen. The hero was tied to a tree. The villain seized his girlfriend and with her on his horse - rode away. The cowboy arose and with his six gun blazing riddled the screen with bullets. Exclaiming, why you low down coyote, you can't do that. The people around him laughed and said, calm down pardoner, calm down. All this is just make believe.)

You know now this is the attitude of many people toward the Christian story. To them the story about Jesus and about God is just make believe.

Our God is a God that expresses himself in speech. In many passages of the Bible, he speaks directly to man - and in other passages in the Bible, he does not speak. But the Bible records the utterances as the word of God.

No man can compare his speech to that of God. God is a marvelous speaker. And God is also a marvelous listener.

While men are busy today talking, God is quietly listening. In the Old Testament book, there are the speeches of men. For example Job has over 30 of the 42 chapters in a book record nothing except the discourse of several men. There are 39 whole chapters that Job and his three friends hold forth, all the while God silently listening. There is another man listening, Elihu - he was a God fearing man. He exercised unusual restraint. While the three tried to talk Job into silence, Job turned and tried to silence the three. Elihu finally broke in and when he began to talk, he talked six whole chapters in the Bible. He was a good listener to a point. But there was a limit.

Now God alone could listen with unlimited patience. To Job, to his three sons, and to all that Elihu had to say. And he listened.

Now in the New Testament there is really no book that corresponds to Job in the Old Testament. But we meet a man who talks just as much as those three friends of Job. And was always swift to voice his idea and we want to see how God dealt with him. You are all familiar with the man - his name is Simon Peter.

Wherever there was an opportunity to speak, Peter was on the spot. At times, he could not wait for an opportunity and just blurted out whatever occurred to him at that moment. And God many times is a long-suffering listener. And we know that God did silence Peter on 3 or 4 occasions.

One time when he was dealing with the Gentiles at Cornelius's house. God quieted him and helped him to see that all people were in the reach of the Gospel.

Another time at Capernaum, God told him to go and use a hook and catch a fish and he'd find some money in the fish's mouth to pay the taxes with. And God quieted Peter there.

And of course, that day when he had denied his Lord and the cock crowed, Peter was silenced.

I am thinking this morning, however, about the situation on the Mt. of transfiguration. And let us see how God silences a man here. There are some good lessons for us.

V. 29 - Why did Jesus go to the mountain? We read here that the scene of the transfiguration is Mt. Hermon - a very high mountain, about 14 miles from Caesarea.

It can actually be seen from the Dead Sea, at the other end of Palestine - more than a 100 miles away. Hermon is 9,400 feet high. It is 11,000 feet above the level of the Jordan valley. Somewhere on the slopes of the beautiful mountain, the transfiguration happened. It must have happened perhaps, late in the evening or at night. As Luke tells us. Because the next day they came down from the mountain and found the sick boy. So evidently it was sometime in the sunset or the late evening, when this amazing vision took place. But why did Jesus go on this expedition to this lonely mountain slope. We have the clue for he tells us that Jesus was praying. We must put ourselves as far as we can in Jesus place. By this time he was on the way to the cross - of that he was quite sure. Again and again he told his disciples about this.

Now Jesus must solve what was quite sure and beyond all doubt on his last journey, that he was doing what God wished him to do. He had to make certain indeed that God wanted him to go to Jerusalem to the cross.

Jesus went up to the mount to ask God the question, am I doing your will in setting my face to go to Jerusalem? And Jesus went to the mountain to be silent and to listen to the commands of God. I think Jesus never took any steps without consulting God. How could he take this biggest step that he ever took without consulting God. Of everything, Jesus asked one question - and only one. Is it God's will for me? And that is the question which he was asking in the loneliness in the slopes of that mountain.

It is one of the supreme differences between Jesus and us. It is the great fact that made Jesus what he was. He was always asking, what does God wish me to do.

We nearly always ask, what do I wish to do. We do not stay quiet long enough for God to speak to us. And Jesus had no will but the will of God. When Jesus had a problem, he did not seek to solve it by the power of his own thought. He did not take it to others for human advice. He took it to the lonely place and to God.

I want you to note that he took three people with him. One of the select few who was always forward and outspoken - Peter. He was bold, courageous, ready at a moment to do what he deemed should be done. He was the man who said, though art the Christ - the son of the living God. He is the man who smote off the ear of the servant of the High Priest in Gethsemane. He is the man who followed Christ afar off. He is the one who denied Christ, but later on said, I love thee. And at Pentecost, 3,000 were saved. According to tradition Peter was crucified but feeling unworthy to die as Christ died, he requested to be crucified with his head down instead of up.

James, was another one who went to the mountain. He was a pastor of a large church in Jerusalem later on. He presided at the Jerusalem Council that handled the question of the Gentiles--about being admitted into the church. He thought of himself as a bond slave. He wrote the book of James. Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

John was the other man in the party. He was beloved. He wrote the Gospel that bears his name. He also wrote Revelation. These were with Jesus on the mount.

V. 29 - His countenance was changed as he prayed - the outward affect of his inward change must be as the shining light. His raiment was white. Righteousness.

V. 30 - Two great figures appear to Jesus - Moses and Elias. It is fascinating to see how in many respects the experience of these two great leaders matched the experience of Jesus.

There was Moses, who had been hidden at his birth but who had been miraculously saved in the Nile on a little Ark made of bulrushes. And at the age of 40, he made

a supreme decision, to suffer the afflictions with the people of God. And he wanted to deliver the people and he slew an Egyptian and fled to the mountains. He became a herdsman and remained there for 40 years. While he was there at the burning bush he heard the call of God. The voice of God spoke. And he saw his shepherd's crook converted into a snake. He saw his hand become white with leprosy. He saw the ten plagues that were sent on Egypt. He saw 600,000 men and women, beside children leave Egypt, for the promise land. He saw the waters of the Red Sea open and Israel passed through on dry ground. He saw the manna rain from Heaven. And at Mt. Sinai he saw God.

The other man was Elias - he was bold and faithful while on earth. He defied kings, court, their injustices. His voice rang out. He prayed that it might not rain - and it rained not in the space of 3 years and 6 months. On Mt. Carmel he had a show down with God - the God of Baal and the true God. On the top of the mountain, we find that he prayed for rain to come. And a cloud the size of a man's hand came and the drought was broken.

Now their experiences were very much like the experiences of Jesus. When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, the skin of his face shone - both Moses and Elias had the most intimate experiences with God on the mountaintop. It was Mt. Sinai for Moses where he received the law. It was Mt. Horeb where Elias found God, not in the wind, not in the earthquake, but in the still small voice.

It is a strange thing and yet it is awesome when you think about the way these men died. The Bible tells us of the lonely death of Moses in Mt. Nebo - it reads that God himself buried the great leader. Deut. 34. But no man knows where the grave is even unto this day.

Elias took his departure in a chariot and forces of fire. These two great figures appear with Jesus as he was setting out for Jerusalem. Where men were men who

seemed too great to die.

V. 31 - Luke tells us that Moses and Elias talked to Jesus of his decease which he would accomplish at Jerusalem. What they really talked about was exodus. The word exodus describes what we might well call the most adventurous journey in human history. A journey in which a whole people, in utter trust in God, went out unto the unknown. That is precisely what Jesus is going to do. In utter trust in God, he is going to set out on the adventure of that journey to Jerusalem. A journey that involved a cross.

Now Moses was the greatest of the law givers and he was supreme. Now Elias was the greatest prophet - to him the voice of God spoke to men with directness. And these two great figures in Israel's history came to Jesus at the time he was setting out on this last great adventure - and it seems that all history rose up to point Jesus on his way. Their appearance was the signal for Jesus to go on. So then the greatest human figures witnessed to Jesus that he was going the right way as he took his exodus to Jerusalem and to Calvary.

V. 32 - The Disciples liked to miss this. Here Jesus was asking for the approval of God on the mount of transfiguration, looking forward and talking to Moses and Elias. And here they were asleep.

Let me suggest that we miss many things in life because we are asleep. There are certain things that come to mind that cause you to miss a lot of things. There is prejudice. We may be so set in our ideas and our minds that we shut out new ideas that knock on our doors.

The second, there may be mental slumber - there are many who refuse to struggle or to think. They ask is life worth living. They never really think it through.

Third, there are those who love ease. This is a kind of defense for people - they go mentally asleep because they like to be at rest.

V. 33 - When Peter rallied himself finally, he said to Jesus, it is good for us to be here. Let us make a proposal - let's make three tabernacles up here - one for you, one for Moses - the giver of the law, and one for Elias who represents the prophets.

V. 34-35 - God silences man. Peter was thrilled to see Moses and Elias as well as Christ. He was so swept up with this that he began to talk and say what they ought to do. Giving his ideas - there he was in the presence of God.

But God came to him and said, "you be quiet." This is my beloved son - hear him. In other words, this voice that came out of the cloud, silenced Peter. The very voice of God telling him that he was wrong, but was telling Jesus what he must do.

That cloud was a part of Israel's history. All through the history there was a cloud that stood over them that was none the less the glory of God.

I wish we had time to look at that cloud - in Exodus we read that the pillar of cloud which was to lead the children of Israel on their way. When they built and completed the tabernacle, the cloud covered the tent, of the congregation and filled the tabernacle with glory. The cloud descended at the time of giving the tables of law by Moses. And once again this cloud came at the dedication of Solomon's Temple. This was the mysterious glory of God.

Now God told Peter to keep quiet. He did not say hear ye them, Moses and Elias, but he did say hear him.

When God silenced Peter he had two things that he was trying to get across.

The first thing was that he was trying to get Peter to listen to the mission of Jesus. And second, he was trying to get Peter to discover his own mission out in the world.

(First, every disciple needs to know and hear about the mission of Jesus.)

Man needs to keep quiet long enough to get this in his heart. Jesus was on the spiritual mountain peak. His exodus lay before him. Was he taking the right way - was this the right adventure. Was he to go to Jerusalem that waited with open arms and a cross. This was one of the greatest verdicts in all of history.

And it must have been in the minds of the Disciples that they were bewildered and they were hurt. That he must go up and be crucified and died.

It must have looked to them that there was nothing but black shame ahead.

The whole atmosphere of the mount of transfiguration is glory. From start to finish. Jesus' face shone like the sun. His garments glistened and gleamed like the light.

No Jew could ever see this cloud without thinking of the glory of God resting upon his people. It catches your breath. It staggers you with wonder. But here is something that lifts up the hearts of the disciples that here is the mission of Christ. He is going to go to the cross. And all in humiliation and there was some thing of glory in the air as he made this exodus to his death.

The second lesson that Peter learned was, (his own mission.) He talked about building three tabernacles. He was always a man of action. Peter was always a man who wanted to be doing something.

But he learned here that there was a time for stillness. There was a time for

contemplation - for wonder, adoration.

Psalm 46:10. Be still and know that I am God. It may be that sometimes we are too busy trying to do something. When we would do better to be silent and listening. To be wondering. To be adorn in the presence of God.

Before a man can really go on an adventurous thing for Jesus Christ, he must first be quiet on his knees and pray.

Now instead of building a museum up there for Moses' laws to be put in, or building a hall of fame and putting the prophets pictures in there - Peter learned that he could carry this experience with him out in the common things of life. The nearness of God that everyone wants to know. That everyone wishes to prolong. The time of enjoyment. The daily ministry and the way of the cross.

Susanne Wesley had a prayer - Help me Lord to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that every where I am in Thy presence.

Yes, the moment of glory does not exist for its own sake. It was not just the museum there on the mountain. It was something that God was trying to tell Peter to take away in his heart.

Habakkuk 2:20 - The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.

Jeremiah 8:14 - For the Lord our God has put us to silence.

Revelation 8:1 - There was silence in Heaven, about the space of half an hour.

When the lamb and the throne and the seventh seal is open.

God silences man.

Now if man will get quiet long enough, God will speak again. God does speak and if we have eyes to see and ears to hear what Jesus has to say, we will hear it.

If we will get quiet enough, we will not even hear a voice - we'll just get it.

I read the story of a great church in Dallas where the preacher was on his way to church one morning and he saw a crowd of people on the sidewalk, at the front of the building. He paused to see what the attraction was. And there on the steps of the church he saw a man on the church steps. He was evidently poor, with heavy work shoes and blue overalls and a blue shirt open at the collar. He lay there with his hands out stretched toward the church door. The people and the preacher watched him expire. The police came and took away the lonely creature.

Now the preacher's heart was troubled. Who was that man, what was his name. Was he a Christian. Was he saved. Why did he come to the door steps of the church. Why did he seek the sanctuary of God.

Why did God place him there just as the preacher passed by and a crowd of people.

Surely God had something in mind and he wanted those people to get quiet for a minute so he could let them see and not forget that an individual person - the lonely heart in the great mass of organization of that church, and the great host

of people in that church and city - that here was a lost sheep. Here he was right at the doorstep and no one seemed to know who he was.

Yes, like Peter God says quite often to us, get quiet. Be still. I want you to hear Jesus and what he has to say.

The director of a funeral home called a preacher to come and conduct a service of a little child. His family was strangers in the city. At the funeral home he met the family and a few friends. And when he looked at the little body, a three year old child with beautiful golden hair, with her hands folded. She looked for all the world just like his own little child as if she were asleep. He stood there and he opened the Bible for comfort. And he thought of his own little child who was three years old. And he thought of the loss of that precious child. He could hardly go on with the service. The young father and mother came forward to see the sweet face of that child for the last time. The mother fell down on her knees ringing her hands, oh mother's little darling, how can mother live without you. Oh, my precious little girl.

But the young father stood there with his arms folded like an image. There was no trace of emotion on his face. Those standing by said, why don't you cry. Doesn't she mean anything to you - don't you care. At least, bow down and put your hand on your sorrowing wife and comfort her.

Now the picture of that father standing there with his arms folded, and that bereaved mother - and here was a baby. And without any tears, without any care or compassion) - you know that is the picture of many Christians today. And that is the picture of many churches today. With the lost people all about us - we see them perish without caring. People die in sin without compassion. We see people have trouble without tears.

Set us afire Lord

Stir us we pray

While the world perishes

We go our way.

Purposeless, passionless

Day after day

Set us afire Lord

Stir us we pray.

Let me ask you the question - are you hearing God. Are you letting him direct your way. Are you following him.

Do you long for God to tell you what you need to know in your life. Can you hear Jesus say come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden - and I will give you rest.

God silenced Peter so he could tell him about the content of Christianity.

Jesus was going to make an exodus and go to the cross. And what a blessed experience it is when men get quiet long enough to hear him.

Sat at Girl Hospital - "If, el don't want to die!"
Music invited me in to talk to her - She replied -
Lumbard nanny - Girl school - Baby 16 mo. -
First, got sick in head, sore head -
Second, 23 Psa - The Lord my Shepherd -