

Shh! Listen...

CMBC June 1, 2014

Matthew 13:10 – 17; Psalm 50:1 – 23

- Reading through the Psalms is something like singing through the Hymnbook. Great words, usually expressed with emotion, giving a glimpse into a theme, the next Psalm at times repeating the idea or moving on to a new subject. That is what it is – a hymnbook.
- Someone might read a Psalm and say, “But there is more to that message.”
- Yes there is. It is contained here, in this BOOK.
- Remember, the Psalms too are inspired by God. Each one, is a part of teaching about God and our relationship with Him.
- Psalm 50 says, “O my people, listen as I speak.”
- In this Psalm it is God speaking, speaking directly to us.

1. THE LORD SUMMONS THE EARTH

I have entitled this message **Shh! Listen...**

ILL. Hearing a bird sing, and you want all to hear. Shh...shh! Listen!

ILL. Camping in northern BC and hearing ... Shh ... shh! It's a moose.

In this Psalm it is the LORD, the LORD summoning the earth to listen as he speaks. Shh ... shh! Listen...

- a. This is the Mighty One speaking
 - i. **Vs. 1 The LORD, the Mighty One, is God, and he has spoken; he has summoned all humanity from where the sun rises to where it sets.**
 - ii. The LORD. This is the “**I AM**”
 - iii. The Mighty One
 - iv. God is summoning us all
- b. Shouldn't we listen?
 - i. This is important
 - ii. **Vs 7 I am God, your God.**
 - iii. Out of respect we listen
 - iv. Out of desire we listen
- c. Everyone! Pay attention!
 - i. He call all of humanity “**from where the sun rises to where it sets.**”
 - ii. He even calls all heavenly being **Vs 4 He summons the heavens above**

- iii. This is significant. This is more than “Can I have your attention, please.”
- iv. This is who is asking us to listen: **[2]** *From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.*
 - 1. He is a glorious God, a God of beauty, shining in beauty.
 - 2. Not the ugly fierce looking gods that is in the faces of the idols from neighbouring nations.
- v. But at the same time **[3]** *Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages.*
- vi. But this God who calls us to listen is a righteous and fair God. **[6]** *And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is judge.*
He can be trusted.

2. GATHER THE CONSECRATED ONES

Set the scene: Now that He has the attention of everyone He says, **Vs. 5**
“*Gather to me my consecrated one.*”

- a. Oh, Oh! the call is for us
 - i. *ILL. Called into the principal’s office.*
 - ii. He is calling the set apart ones, “*Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.*”
 - iii. This is very important. These are the ones who are committed to him. He is calling for us, you and me.
 - iv. Then God says: **[7]** “*Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God.*”
 - 1. This is serious. *I will testify against you.*
 - 2. But He reassures us that He is our God. The one we have committed to, put our trust in.
 - 3. What He has to say to us is important, and we really want to hear what He has to say to us.
- b. We should have listened sooner
 - i. We get used to God and often haven’t listened.
 - ii. **[21]** *These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you. But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face.*
 - iii. We are like children at a party, getting rowdier and rowdier. It is time to listen.

- iv. God is gracious and patient, and doesn't give up on us. He has the grace to speak to us, to call us to listen.

3. CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT GOT IN THE WAY OF HEARING?

- a. Missing the point of worship
 - i. These people had been faithfully going through all the required practices of worshipping God, but has missed the point of worship.
 - ii. [7] "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God.
[8] I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.
[9] I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens,
[10] for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.
[11] I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.
[12] If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
[13] Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?
[16] But to the wicked, God says: "What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips?
[17] You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you.
 - iii. The sacrifices were not the point of worship
 - iv. Sacrifices were intended to put us into a place where we would hear God
 - v. When we don't listen to God we become more and more self centered, even in our worship.
 - 1. Even in our relationships, we become more and more critical of others, and don't believe our own problems.
 - 2. If I have a problem, it is because of someone else.
- b. The test of having listened
 - i. The heart that seeks God is the point
[14] Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High,
[15] and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."
 - ii. Thankfulness is a changed attitude, which is no more about me.

- iii. It is no more about others changing and being nicer, but about what God wants to do in my own life, in spite of others.
- iv. [23] He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.”
- c. God makes one more point.
 - i. [16] But to the wicked, God says: “What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips?
[17] You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you.
[18] When you see a thief, you join with him; you throw in your lot with adulterers.
[19] You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit.
[20] You speak continually against your brother and slander your own mother's son.
 - ii. Can you imagine sitting in church and being critical, critical of God, critical of how the worship service is going?
 - 1. And then use the same tongue with which they worshipped, and use it for speaking against a brother, another believer?
 - 2. No wonder that God says: “Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

4. THE LORD WANTS A CONVERSATION WITH US

- a. He speaks to us
 - i. This is a God who does speak to us
 - ii. But he speaks to you out of a heart that is close to him
 - iii. What do you hear?
- b. He listens to us
 - i. This isn't a one way conversation
 - ii. God wants to hear from you
 - iii. He wants to hear from your heart
- c. This is a holy conversation, a glorious conversation

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