
Distractions
and the Voice of Jesus
So We May Hear- Leviticus 19:30

So We May Hear

- Ava Lee Nichols, “Reverence, Respect, Responsibility”
  - Reverence for the name of God, the Scriptures given us by Him, and the place set aside to worship Him
    - Biblical reverence - a deep, worshipful mix of profound *(an intensity that goes far beyond human surface-level understanding)* respect, awe, and godly fear directed toward God's supreme holiness and majesty

So We May Hear

- Ava Lee Nichols, “Reverence, Respect, Responsibility”
  - Biblical respect - to place high value, worth, and honor on God and all people because they are made in God's image
  - Biblical responsibility - the moral duty to know and do what God expects of you, while remaining personally accountable to God for your actions, roles, and resources
  - This applies to all areas of our lives, especially when we come together for worship

So We May Hear

- The Quakers practiced unprogrammed worship where the entire service is centered on shared, expectant silence rather than a pre-arranged program or sermon
  - Attendees sit together in silence to listen inwardly for divine guidance
  - Anyone may briefly speak if they feel genuinely moved by the Spirit, after which the silence resumes
  - Services frequently concluded without a single word being spoken

So We May Hear

- The services at the church in Corinth were marked by chaos
  - Each person doing their own thing without regard to others
  - 1st Corinthians 14:40 ESV, “But all things should be done decently and in order.”
- So how can we here maintain a sense of true worship allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to quiet hearts while at the same time worshipping in the freedom we have in Christ Jesus as a family?

Scripture

- Leviticus 19:30 NIV, “Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord.”
  - Observe - meaning to guard, protect, or carefully watch over
    - Unlike a passive action, the Biblical Hebrew word implies active protection and careful custody
    - The Israelites were commanded to "guard" the Sabbaths as something precious and holy

Scripture

- Leviticus 19:30 NIV, “Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord.”
  - Biblical reverence - a deep, worshipful mix of profound *(an intensity that goes far beyond human surface-level understanding)* respect, awe, and godly fear directed toward God's supreme holiness and majesty
  - Why Observe and Reverence?
    - Because I am the Lord

So We May Hear

- Randy, are you saying we are like the Church at Corinth, or do you want a service that is totally silent like the Quakers?
  - Absolutely not
  - There is a great deal of uplifting when human emotions are expressed
    - “Amens”, “Yeses”, “Laughter at my silliness or mistakes”, “Clapping”, “Tears”

So We May Hear

- But something happens to a room when it is over 80% capacity
  - It gets noisy and can become distracting
  - There are more people so there is more movement
  - There is more whispering *(which is not as quiet as you think)*
  - More cough drops and gum being opened
  - More things being dropped
  - There is more socializing

So We May Hear

- But something happens to a room when it is over 80% capacity
  - More shuffling of papers, bags being opened, noisy toys coming alive, children voices
  - More influence from our enemy
  - We can become so used to these that we don’t hear it from ourselves, or our family
  - And we can become complacent at how distracting it can be for some others

So We May Hear

- For those who lean more toward the Quaker side, you can't un-noise 80% capacity
- Well Randy, the answer is simple, just move the children out
  - Problem is your still here and the children are not learning Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility from their parents in those teachable moments
  - Plus, there would be those who would greatly protest the children not being in service
- We can't un-noise 80% capacity, but we can soften it using Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility

Reverence – You get yourself and your family ready for worship

- Romans 12:18 NIV, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
- You grasp the understanding that we are presenting ourselves before a holy, righteous and just God who is worthy of our devotion
  - You're not coming before a priest, pastor, or congregation but to the Eternal God who holds your life in the palm of His hand
  - Yes, He is loving, yes, He is forgiving, yes, He looks upon you as His child but never underestimate His Position, His Purity, His Holiness

Reverence – You get yourself and your family ready for worship

- You grasp the understanding that we are presenting ourselves before a holy, righteous and just God who is worthy of our devotion
  - If He allowed you a glimpse of His glory you would fall on your knees in total humility
  - Leviticus 19:30 NIV, “I am the Lord.”

Reverence – You get yourself and your family ready for worship

- You grasp the understanding that we are presenting ourselves before a holy, righteous and just God who is worthy of our devotion
  - So I'm going to get myself ready, focused, prepared before arriving
  - My spirit is open and teachable to His Holy Spirit and His Word
  - I will train myself not let the simple distractions sideline me

Reverence – You get yourself and your family ready for worship

- You grasp the understanding that we are presenting ourselves before a holy, righteous and just God who is worthy of our devotion
  - But I'm also going to work to get those in my family ready to worship
  - Talk about it before you get to the church building
  - Proverbs 22:6 ESV, Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it"
    - MSG, "Point your kids in the right direction" *(and walk it yourself)*

Reverence – You get yourself and your family ready for worship

- You grasp the understanding that we are presenting ourselves before a holy, righteous and just God who is worthy of our devotion
  - I’m going to guard, protect, and carefully watch over this worship time because it is so very precious to me and others around me

Respect – I'm going to understand others around me may have needs to hear God's Holy Spirit

- In every service there are those who attend that need to hear of salvation through Jesus Christ on the Cross
  - They need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Satan will do his best to distract them
- In every service there are those who attend carrying heavy burdens with needs and decisions only God can supply, and they are longing to hear a word of encouragement and acceptance
  - They need to feel and hear the Holy Spirit in their lives and circumstances

Respect – I'm going to understand others around me may have needs to hear God's Holy Spirit

- So, I will respect their needs and deal with any distraction that may be coming from me or those I'm responsible for
  - If kids were not so darn cute and funny we would not feel the need to play with them a bit
  - I may need to sush my children and yes even my older children and teenager
  - Never sush your spouse but you can give them the silent "stink-eye"

Respect – I'm going to understand others around me may have needs to hear God's Holy Spirit

- Because we are *"training children in the way they should go",* I will have patience and understanding with parents struggling today with them and understand it will not always be like this

So We May Hear

- I will point us back to our main scripture today
  - Leviticus 19:30 NIV, "Observe *(guard, protect, or carefully watch over)* my Sabbaths and have reverence *(deep respect, awe, and godly fear)* for my sanctuary. I am the Lord."
  - I will protect and prepare myself for our Worship Services
  - And I will understand we are family, warts and all
  - All broken, but still good


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