

Hearing God in Worship

So What's Next....

20/20
HEARING

After the Sunday Message?

Do you ever wonder what God wants you to do with the sermon you hear each week?

Do you ever wonder if worship is meant to speak something into your life for Monday morning?

Do you ever wonder what it is that God might be trying to say to you, if anything at all?

At Christ Church we believe that God is speaking to us all the time and God uses worship, one of our weekly rhythms, as an opportunity to hear a heavenly word.

For example, have you ever:

-gotten a nudge in our heart to do something from a challenge in a sermon?

-or had an interesting fact from the sermon or scripture reading floating around in your head all week?

-or have a lyric from a praise song stuck in your head

These are ways God is trying to talk to you. He wants Christ's love and his ways to be known by you. What good is having love to share or a plan for people and then making it difficult for them to hear either one? God has plenty to say every day about your situation, where you find yourself right now, and worship is one way those truths for your life are expressed to you.

God's plan is not to be aloof. Therefore, God promises to be found by anyone who seeks him out, (Jeremiah 29:13).

Therefore, learning how to listen to God in our everyday life is an important part of discipleship, the process of continually *becoming* and worship is a part of that becoming.

What should I expect out of corporate worship?

- To experience God with you there as you remember who God is and thank him for what he has done and will do.
- Hear God speaking something into your life's present situation.
- Hear a call to (action) to a way of life and mission.

So, how do I come to worship?

Expecting:

Expect to hear from God. God set up a pattern, a rhythm of weekly worship:

- to encourage our hearts as we set aside time to praise God and be thankful
- to remind us of the abundant life we have in relationship with Jesus Christ
- to speak to us about our calling as a family of God

Jesus and the disciples did worship together often, it's one of the pieces of the follower's life that God uses, and we don't want to miss out on what God may be wanting to say to us through the experience. (Luke 6).

So, what do I do?

Have engaged listening:

Each week you may have experienced or left worship with what we call a *Kairos*, a blessed moment, when heaven and earth came together to reveal something special to your mind, heart and soul, (Mark 1:15).

How to recognize a Kairos:

One way to recognize a Kairos moment is to listen for something to come to your mind during and after worship. Is there something that was said or sung or something you made a note of that keeps coming back to your mind on Sunday afternoon or during the week?

We believe this is God working through the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus calls your teacher, to give you a Kairos- a special "word" or insight spoken to you personally (John 14:26).

What do I do with the Kairos, I thought I heard?

Reflect:

Spend some time thinking about the thought. If God nudged your heart to keep it in your mind, it's something you should reflect on. Trust that God is capable of speaking to you on a personal level and take time to reflect on it. What is drawing your attention from the sermon, music, prayer?

Important Note: Reflection is much easier with another person, someone you can trust that loves you and knows God well. And it works best in a small group where everyone is seeking to hear from God, understand God's love, and live out a life of being a follower of Jesus.

If you are not in a small group, consider being in one, as we believe that the group experience of sharing, studying scripture together, having life together on the journey is the best place to reflect what you think God might be saying to you.

After reflecting, what do I do with my thoughts?

Respond:

Make a plan to believe what God is saying to you for yourself. Take time to figure out how to implement this new thing in your life. If God took the time to say it to you, God must want you to do something with it.

Another Important Note: *Trying to reflect on it alone is not God's plan. In Hebrews 10:24-25, it says to meet together to spur one another on and Jesus' example of discipleship is with others, as mentioned above. Learning together is the example we find in the Bible.*

Here is another reason why reflecting and discussing with others is so important:

What if what you thought you heard, isn't from God at all, but your own "stuff" or you are responding out of a misunderstanding you have about God or yourself. That will happen from time-to-time; that's why it's best to do your reflecting and responding with people you can trust either in a small group or with a good friend who knows God well and has been on the journey for a while.

The most important thing to remember is that God is speaking to you every day on the journey of becoming. God knows it's a process; we all are growing. Christ our wonderful counselor, and friend, (Isaiah 9:6) is speaking to you so it's important to practice listening and responding and worship is part of this weekly 20/20 hearing..