

# Same God, Different Seasons

2-25-26

## 4 - When God Speaks (#3 When God does not Answer)

### I. Announce:

A. Welcome those online!!!

B. **Slide1 Holy Week:** We will be holding *daily special services* to commemorate Holy Week. These **reflective** and **interactive** services have been a way each year to focus ourselves before Easter and we hope you will join us.

C. **Slide2 Easter Sunday:** April 5 - 7:30a, 9:00a, 10:30a, or 12:00p.

D. **Slide3 GriefShare:** Spring session starts **this Sun** during 3rd service in the LC2. This is a 13-week **grief support group** that focus on important grief topics associated with the death of a loved one.

E. **Slide4 Church Prayer:** Join us Sun at 1:30p in the Agape Room.

F. **Slide5 Prayer:**

### II. Intro: 4 - When God Speaks (#3 When God *does not Answer*)

A. When you hear the phrase **God speaks**, what immediately comes to mind? **Ask:** (Scripture? Impressions? Circumstances? Audible voice?)

B. Why do you think Scripture presents God as a **speaking God** from Genesis to Revelation? **Ask:** (He's relational, **not** a force. He's a revealing God to people: Ab, Mo, prophets. The speaking, God gives: *boundaries, commands, wisdom, correction*. [**otherwise no Law/no promise/no gospel**]. A speaking God is a faithful God: He does what He says/promises).

C. **Last week** we talked about when God does not answer.

**This week** we talk about when He does speak.

1. **Yet** when God *finally speaks*, *it rarely feels the way we expected*.

2. **But remember: silence and speech** come from *the same Father*.

D. Sometimes **silence** grows our hunger. **And when He speaks**, it **reshapes** our hunger.

E. When God speaks, it is always for **formation**, not just *information*.

1. **We often want:** Explanations. Timelines. Solutions.

2. **But** when **God** speaks, He often gives: Himself. Direction. Correction. Calling.

## Slide6a **1 CLARIFY WHAT WE MEAN BY “GOD SPEAKS”**

### F. God Speaks through ... what?

#### 1. Slide6b Through **Scripture** (primary).

- a) Hebrews 1:1-2a *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke to our fathers by the prophets**, 2 **but** in these last days he has spoken to us by **his Son***

#### 2. Slide6c Through **the Spirit**.

- a) John 16:13 *When **the Spirit of truth** comes, he will guide you into all the truth, ... and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

#### 3. Slide6d Through **conviction**.

- a) Why is **obedience** so closely connected to **hearing**?

(1) Because, John 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice... and they follow.*

#### 4. Slide6e Through **circumstances** (carefully interpreted).

- a) Difference of **Impressions** and **imposters**. **Impressions** need to be backed by **Interpretations**. [funny Prv.8:21 *house*]

- G. Let's be clear: God speaking today **does not mean** new revelation, it means **illumination** of what **He** has already revealed.

## III. Slide7 **2 WHEN GOD SPEAKS, IT'S OFTEN NOT WHAT WE ASKED FOR**

- A. *When God Does Not Answer* we often cry: **Why? How long?** Fix this. Remove this.

1. **Then** when God finally speaks ... it's like *the book of Job*.

- B. *In the Book of Job*: God **doesn't** answer Job's **Why**.

1. He reveals His **Who!** (this is really important to understand!).

2. When **God speaks**, He often gives **revelation of Himself** rather than *resolution of our problem*. (See Job 38-42)

C. Job 38-41 is one of the most powerful moments in Scripture *where God finally Speaks... and doesn't answer the "why."*

D. In the beginning of the book, Job loses: *children, health, wealth.*

1. His friends offer theological explanations.
2. Job asks "Why?" repeatedly - For 35+ chapters, God is silent.

E. Then in Job 38, *Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind...*

1. God finally speaks. There are roughly 70 rhetorical questions.
  - a) They are not casual questions. They are *rapid-fire, courtroom-style interrogations*.

F. Slide8 Read Job 38:1-11 NLT *dramatically*.

G. Slide9 Structure of God's Speech

### 1. Creation & Foundations (38:1-21)

- a) Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
- b) Questions about: Earth's measurements. Seas. Dawn. Light and darkness.
- c) Theme: You were not there. I was.

### 2. The Natural World (38:22-38)

- a) Snow. Hail. Rain. Stars. Constellations
- b) Theme: You don't control what you don't understand.

### 3. Animal Kingdom (38:39-39:30)

- a) Lions. Ravens. Mountain goats. Wild donkeys. Ox. Ostrich. Horse. Hawk. Eagle.
- b) Theme: Creation runs under My wisdom without your supervision.

### 4. Behemoth & Leviathan (40-41) [Behemoth / a massive land creature, a crocodile or hippo. Leviathan / a terrifying sea creature, dragon]

- a) These animals represent *untamable power and chaos*.
- b) Theme: There are forces in the universe far beyond you - and they are not beyond Me.

H. The Big Theological Point.

I. God does not explain *suffering*. He reveals **Sovereignty**.

J. He shifts the conversation from: “*Why is this happening?*” to: “*Do you trust the One who runs the universe?*”

#### IV. Slide10 3 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD SPEAKS

##### A. Clarity.

1. It's **not** always about *circumstances*, **but** about **direction**.

a) Eg. Samuel: *Speak for your servant hears*. (1 Samuel)

b) Eg. Paul: *Go to Macedonia*.

2. **Sometimes it's**: Stop. Go. Forgive. Trust. Wait.

##### B. Exposure

1. When God speaks, things get **uncovered**.

a) Isaiah 6:1:5 *And I said: **Woe is me!** For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; *for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!**

2. God speaking produces *humility*, not *hype*.

##### C. Commission

1. When God speaks, He sends.

a) Moses. Isaiah. Paul. The disciples.

(1) **You might say**: When God speaks, *life changes*.

#### V. Slide11 4 THE DANGER WHEN GOD SPEAKS

A. Sometimes we say we want God to speak ... **But often we mean**: We want Him to **agree with us**.

1. **Often we already have**: A preference. A plan. A direction. A narrative about someone else.

2. We're **not** neutral. We're looking for *divine endorsement*. - **But that's not listening**, that's *spiritual lobbying*.

3. If hearing God always makes you feel **affirmed but never adjusted**, you may not be **listening** - you may be **projecting**.

a) **If** God answered you clearly tonight, and the answer was “No,” would you still call that **guidance**? **If** He redirected you, would you still call that **love**?

B. When God truly speaks: *He confronts. He redirects. He calls us to deeper surrender.*

C. Hearing God is **not about mystical experience**. It's about **surrendered obedience**.

## VI. Slide 12 **5 CONNECT IT BACK TO PHILIPPIANS 4**

A. Paul says: *12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

1. **How did he learn?** Because God spoke through: Scripture. Revelation. Experience. The Spirit.

B. The learning of *contentment* comes from **listening**.

## VII. Slide 13 **6 HOW TO RESPOND WHEN GOD SPEAKS** *practical*

A. **When God speaks:**

1. Write it down.
2. Test it against Scripture.
3. Submit it to wise counsel.
4. **Obey quickly.** (*delayed obedience* dulls spiritual hearing).

B. **CLOSING**

C. Slide 14a From the Whirlwind to the Storm.

D. In Job 38 God speaks out of the *whirlwind*, and *the storm became His microphone*.

1. **And then centuries later ... the disciples are in a storm of their own.**  
The wind is howling, waves are crashing, they think they're going to die.

2. And what does **Jesus** do? **Jesus** stands up and says, “*Peace. Be still.*”  
And the wind obeys **Him**. (always obedience from: nature, animals, demons, *just not always His followers*)

E. Slide14b The voice that questioned Job from the whirlwind is the same voice that silenced the storm on Galilee.

1. In Job, God says: *Who shut in the sea with doors?*  
In Mark, **Jesus** does.

2. In Job, God asks: *Can you command the morning?*  
In the Gospels, **Jesus** does.

3. When God speaks in Job, we see His sovereignty.  
When Jesus speaks in the storm, we see that sovereignty *in skin & bone*.

a) The **disciples** ask: *Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?*  
- **Job** already knew the answer.

F. *Same God, Different Seasons:*

1. Slide14c Sometimes God speaks **from** the whirlwind. Sometimes He speaks **to** the whirlwind. **But** it is always the same God.

2. If He rules the storm **outside** of you, He can rule the storm **inside** of you.

G. Hebrews 1:1-2a *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.***

1. What does it mean that God has “*spoken by His Son*”? (Galilee wind/sea obey)

2. How does that shape how we think about hearing God today?

H. **Pray:** Sit in quiet for 30 seconds before closing. **Simply say:** *Speak, Lord. For Your servants is listening.*

I. Keywords: God speaking, prayer,