

The Most Important Voice in Your Life

Opening Text: Luke 23:20-23

Verse 23: *But they were insistent, demanding with **loud voices** that He be crucified. And the **voices** of these men and of the chief priests **prevailed**.*

These were violent voices that shouted condemnation and guilt. They were loud and insistent – and these voices, the passage says, *prevailed*.

*... And the **voices** of these men and of the chief priests **prevailed**.*

Against those voices, neither the King nor reason prevailed - neither the rule of Roman law. Of course we know that this needed to happen so that Jesus should go to cross and fulfill God's plan of redemption. However, from this passage we also understand...

1. That the devil (mankind's enemy) has a voice – and that he will use people. He will often move crowds that shout with one voice.

He can move societies, mentalities and cultures, “public opinion,” or what we know as the “majority”. This is important to understand so we are not moved by “majorities” but we think with our own heads and are moved only by our beliefs.

He can use the voice of a crowd but also of individuals. Once he used Peter's voice trying to stop Jesus. Jesus had to say, *Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.*” (Mt. 16:23).

2. That his voice is often insistent, demanding and loud.

“But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified”

The crowd was insistent: they didn't stop until Pilate overturned his own verdict of ‘not guilty’ (which he had pronounced 3 times). The enemy doesn't give up easily. He will be insistent, demanding and loud.

3. That his voice will always speak accusation, intimidation, condemnation, and guilt.

“crucify Him, crucify Him.” The devil is only out to kill, steal and destroy. He is the *“accuser of the brethren”*

Revelation 12:10b *-...the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

Herod must have felt the intimidation of those voices shouting and demanding that Jesus be condemned! Such is the voice of the enemy.

Exodus 15: 9 - *The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'*

Regardless of how the enemy works and how loud he speaks, he doesn't have to prevail in my life or your life! We do not have to succumb to his intimidation or demands. However, we need to discern his lies when he **speaks**.

4. The devil may use people but he often speaks the loudest in our own thought life.

You know that sometimes the loudest voice in our lives is the voice of our own thoughts. Have you ever been so caught up in your own thoughts that you may have missed what someone said to you? In that moment, your own thoughts became louder than any external voice. And while it is easy to discern an external voice, sometimes we get confused about the origin of our own thoughts. Is it God? Is it just me? Is it the flesh, is it the devil?

So, how do you take charge of your mind?

- 1. We need to be careful to identify and stop the narrative that the enemy wants to build in our own minds.**

We are told very clearly not to give the enemy any foothold in our lives (Ephesians 4:27). His lies should have no real estate in your mind:

Psalms 31:18 - *Let the lying lips be **put to silence**, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.*

The moment he speaks, the moment the thought comes, take it down!

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**,*

- 2. Worship is a great way to silence the enemy**

I have found that worshipping God is a great way to silence the enemy! The enemy may be loud, but I can worship louder!

Psalms 8:2 - *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have ordained strength [or praise], because of Your enemies, that You may **silence the enemy** and the avenger.*

We read in 1 Samuel that King Saul was afflicted by a distressing spirit. However, when David played the harp, the distressing spirit left the king.

On the other hand, the more you worship, the louder and clearer the voice of the Holy Spirit becomes in your life. That is the voice that matters. In 2 Kings 3:16-19 Elisha the prophet called a musician to worship while he sought God for His word.

3. Take charge of the conversation going on in your own thoughts

Do not accept the narrative of the enemy. Do not let his voice prevail. Silence the enemy's voice by speaking truth to yourself .

Speak to myself? Who does that? Well, you are constantly speaking to yourself – all the time. You are talking to yourself right now. Researchers say that most people speak at a rate of 100-200 words per minute. However, most of us speak 1300 words per minute to ourselves! We entertain a very active internal dialogue!

a) David had many of these “internal dialogues”:

Psalms 42:5 - *Why are you cast down, O my soul? and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*

(Also Psalms 42:11, 43:5, 16:2, 31:22, 55:6 etc).

b) Some people have these inner conversations but agree with the enemy all the time: “I’m worthless, I’m no good, I can’t do anything right...”

Those are lies. We need to replace those lies by intentionally speaking TRUTH to ourselves.

Philippians 4:8 - *Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.***

If it is not true then don't entertain it. Meditate on what is true.

c) In the Hebrew language the word for **meditation** is *siyach*, which, according to the Hebrew dictionary means *to ponder, to converse with oneself or to utter (commune, declare, muse or speak)*.

Biblical meditation is not the same as Eastern meditation. It is not about emptying of one's self but the opposite: filling one's self with the Word by pondering on it and speaking it.

In the Old Testament *meditation* and *speaking* always went together:

Psalms 19:14 - *Let the **words** of my mouth and the **meditation** of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.*

Psalms 49: 3 - *My **mouth** shall speak wisdom, and the **meditation** of my heart shall give understanding.*

Joshua 1:8 etc.

How do you silence the loud words of the enemy? Speak over him: speak the Truth, speak God's word to yourself. Psychologists call this self-talk but it has been in the bible for thousands of years.

Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Don't talk yourself out of what God intended for you. Don't allow the enemy to hijack your miracle!

d) Let me finish with a story in the New Testament:

Matthew 9:20-21 - *²⁰ And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. ²¹ **For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."** ²² But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.*

For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

Even before she talked with Jesus, even before she came to Him, even before she touched Him, she had a talk to herself!

Sometimes we talk ourselves out of a miracle. What do you say to yourself? Who is in charge of your internal dialogue? What voice prevails in your life?

Jesus said, "*My sheep hear My voice.*" Let that voice prevail in your life, let it speak louder than the voices of people around you, louder than popular opinion, louder than the voice of the devil and the flesh. Make room in your mind only for what is true.