

Carey Baptist Church – 18th of February 2024

Psalm 37: v:1-9 – Listening to God.

1/ Thanks for the reading.

2/ Here is another occasion where I sat at HIS feet to know what HE wants me to share by “Listening to God” theme which is a subject very dear to heart.

3/ When I hear our dear children of God say, “God spoke to me to do this, do that, go here, go there, tell this to someone, tell my people, give” I am so thrilled and I tell the Lord, I want that too.

4/ But I have never heard the Lord audibly up to now. But, as I mentioned above about the people who heard God, you and me too can hear God in different ways, and sometimes in a very special way.

5/ HE is our father; therefore, I trust that before even thinking of listening to God, it would be good to know the nature of God. HIS unconditional Love, HIS gift of forgiveness and HIS sinless nature and HIS Holiness.

6/ Sometimes when we are too loud in our lives or too busy in our lives, God loves us so much that HE talks to us through someone or HIS Word. We call it the ‘Rhema’ Word, originally in Greek.

7/ I always trust that HE mostly speaks through our dear brothers and sisters. Personally, for me, it’s through my wife.

8/ What does the scripture say about the wife, Proverbs 19:14 – ‘Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord’.

9/ You see Gentlemen, why we should listen to our wives!

10/ Now, as we all know that my words are not powerful, but the Word of God is the powerful weapon we have, let’s look at what we just heard and some other passages of the Bible.

11/ The Psalmist says at the start of chapter 37 – “Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.”

12/ In reality, since all scriptures is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), here the Lord is telling us not to fear. Why?

13/ Because when you fear the Lord, there is nothing else you fear in this world. And it is the other way around too, when you don't fear the Lord, you fear everything else.

14/ Then the Lord goes on to say, *“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

15/ How many of us have received the desires of our hearts? No need to show of hands, but we know in our hearts.

16/ I would not ask you to show of hands as I know the moment the service finishes the next question what you would get is “what was it that you received?”

17/ We would not go through all of this Psalms as we are looking at Listening to God.

18/ Verse 7 says how to listen to God. “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.”

19/ Again HE says not to fret, but to wait patiently. Why should we be still at HIS feet when the whole world runs impatiently to make things happen? Because of all those what the world is running to, the source is Our God. The Lord Jesus Christ. As HE clearly said that we can do nothing without HIM.

20/ HE is even setting us a great example. We run around thinking that God is in trouble, but where is Jesus! HE is sitting at the right hand of the Father. Not even standing or being anxious when we think that the world is in chaos and God has lost control.

21/ Matthew 24 says, you will hear of wars, earthquakes, and nation against nation, but to do what? Run around to find a solution, no, but do not be alarmed. Know that the days are closer.

22/ We say, Lord speaketh that your servant is listening, but do we really do what HE has asked us to do?

23/ No! We are panicked and gossip around, *“hey you know the world is being destroyed...”*

24/ v8 states – “Refrain from anger and turn from wrath, do not fret—it leads only to evil.” Again, do not be afraid.

25/ Refrain from anger. Now you might think why not! Jesus was angry. But, that was righteous anger.

26/ But we are not to be angry as man's anger will never let the light of our Lord Jesus Christ shine. It will do the opposite of extinguishing it. It will be like lighting a lamp and put it under a bowl.

27/ James 1:20 says that human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Since we want to listen to God, then I trust that we want to do what pleases HIM and our anger would not.

28/ Therefore, let's not ignore HIS voice. We are free to taste and see how sweet the Lord is. So, let's take every effort to listen to God as HIS 'plans are to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us a hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11).

29/ We could try different ways until we really hear God. I would start by asking the Lord to speak to us through HIS Word. For that, we need to spend time with the Word, which means spending time with the Lord.

30/ Then discussing with our Godly family members and Godly friends. Or being still at HIS feet. Since we serve a faithful God, I am sure HE will not disappoint us. HE will let us hear HIS gentle small voice which was not in the Earthquake nor in the storm nor in the fire (1 Kings 19:11-13).

31/ May the Good Lord continue to speak to us however loud our environment is that the Power of God will penetrate our hearts with HIS Word.

God bless.