**Jesus Give Me Ears to Hear**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 10:10-17**

**Sunday Morning**

**October 27, 2019**

**Romans 10:10-17**

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Would you read the Bible more if you could understand it better?**

Saints, sometimes our comprehension is hindered by reading a passage too quickly. At other times, especially when reading narratives, we could assume that since we already know the story, there isn’t anything else to learn from the passage.

On the other hand, if we read the Word seeking to know what God is saying and how He would have us apply it, Scripture becomes rich and meaningful.

By seeing how the Lord interacted with Moses, we can gain a better understanding of how we are to listen to God speak to us through His Word.

**Surprise**

While Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, he noticed a burning bush and was surprised that it wasn’t consumed. However, an even more astonishing thing happened:

**Exodus 3:1-4**

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

In a similar way, you and I may be surprised when God unexpectedly applies something in the passage we’re reading to our hearts. We weren’t looking for it, but His Spirit opened our eyes to see what He wanted us to understand.

**Personal**

After getting his attention with the burning bush, God gave Moses a personal message.

**Exodus 3:10**

“Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

We ought to read the Bible with an awareness that the Lord is speaking personally to us through His Word, which is always timely and relevant.

**Specific**

God’s instructions to Moses were not general, but very specific. He had a particular mission for Moses to accomplish— you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

**Encouragement**

The Lord encouraged Moses by saying,

**“I will send you to Pharaoh”**

This was God’s plan, and He would accomplish it. Scripture is filled with encouragement for challenging times of sickness, difficulty, pain, and sorrow if we will listen, believe, and trust the Lord.

**Serious**

We must realize that reading God’s Word is serious business. The Lord wants us to give Him our full attention and understand what He is saying. If we cooperate in this process, we can be confident that He will guide us through life. This why we should be serious:

**Psalm 139:13-18**

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

**Command**

After hearing the Lord’s command, Moses initially objected, saying:

**Exodus 3:11**

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

All he could see were the obstacles to obeying Him. However, God expects us to obey Him even if we feel inadequate.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

“For we walk by faith, not by sight”

**Acts 5:29**

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

**Inescapable**

Despite Moses’ objection, he was not going to change God’s mind or His plans, and the same is true for us.

Although we may think of all sorts of reasons why we cannot do what God wants, His commands are indisputable.

**Ephesians 1:9-14**

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**Frightening**

Since Moses had left Egypt as a fugitive, the thought of returning for such a daunting task must have filled him with fear. Who would he say had sent him? But the Lord assured him by revealing His name,

**Exodus 3:14**

“And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.”

Saints, He is the sovereign God of the universe who controls all things. Sometimes the thought of obeying the Lord can fill us with fear, but we have the same assurance Moses had. When we realize that the one who calls us is the great I AM, it should calm our fears and give us the courage to obey Him. And know that:

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**Promise**

The Lord also gave Moses a promise, saying,

**Exodus 3:12**

“So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

The Lord promises His assistance, presence, power, and provision to all who obey so we never have to go empty-handed to the task.

**Hebrews 13:5**

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Assurance**

In God’s Word we find instructions regarding what to do, insight into His identity, and assurance of His presence with us. Although we may at times feel forsaken because of our circumstances, we must rely on truth rather than feelings.

God gave Moses the following assurance:

**Exodus 3:19-20**

19 “But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. 20 So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go”

**Circumstances**

The Lord often works through our circumstances in order to teach us to trust Him. The situation Moses was facing required great trust in God. Delivering millions of Hebrews would only be possible because the great I AM would be with him. Today we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us to empower obedience to whatever God says.

**1 Peter 5:7-10**

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

**Goal**

Saints, for Moses, the goal was clear—set God’s people free. The Lord never calls us to do anything for which He does not have a reason, purpose, or goal. When He doesn’t reveal to us what it is, we must trust Him.

**Luke 4:18-19**

18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

**Unforgettable**

When Moses was in Egypt, he was running for his life. In order to courageously return, he needed to remember that the Lord was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the great I AM who said,

**Exodus 3:15**

“This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations”

Saints, never forget what God has done for you!

**In Closing:**

**Reassuring**

To further reassure Moses, the Lord promised that the people would not leave empty-handed.

He would grant them favor in the sight of the Egyptians who would freely give them whatever they needed as they left Egyptian bondage forever.

**Exodus 3:21-22**

21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. 22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Saints, throughout God’s conversation with Moses, He promised His presence, wisdom, provision, and power, and He has not changed. We can count on these same things whenever we obey Him and believe His Eternal Covenant Promises such as:

**John 10:27-30**

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

**1. Do you find the Bible rather uninteresting?**

**2. If so, use the words listed above to help you find personal applications as you read.**

**3. Do you tend to open your Bible more frequently when you need help?**

**4. Although this is good, what are the advantages of reading Scripture regularly?**

**5. How would this help you learn to know, trust, and obey God more?**

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**