

Hearing the Voice of Jesus: What it Means to Follow Him Today

November-January

Wednesday Evening Lessons



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **November 11—“Follow Me”**
- **November 18—“Listen to Me”**
- **November 25—[Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner]**



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **December 2—“Understand Me”**
- **December 9—“Crowd Me”**
- **December 16—“Touch Me”**
- **December 23—“Interrupt Me”**
- **December 30—“Fear Me”**



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **January 6—“Believe Me”**
- **January 13—“Pray with Me”**
- **January 20—“Suffer with Me”**
- **January 27—“Preach Me”**



December 02—“Understand Me”

Introduction

- We no longer hear his physical voice.
- Obstacles to listening to Jesus
- Uncircumcised hearts and ears, Acts 7:51
- Some are stubborn and will not listen, Mark 3:5
- Far from him, Mark 7:6



Introduction



- **Others are just plain hardened, Mark 8:17**
- **Understanding Jesus was hard then, and sometimes just as hard today!**
- **Mysterious union of human and divine is the beginning point of understanding.**
- **Embracing of the mystery is the starting point.**

Old Testament beginnings

- **Isaiah 53:3**
- **Psalms 69:7-8**
- **Isaiah 49:7**
- **Isaiah 52:14**
- **Isaiah 53:10**
- **Luke 18:31—what is written about me in the prophets**



Sorrow of family misunderstandings

- **Luke 2:51 mother's early perspective**
- **Luke 2:49-50 they did not understand**
- **Mark 3:20-21 ("seize), 31-35**
- **John 1:11—his own, both his family and his people**



Charges Against Jesus were True

- **Charge=Mark 3:21—He is outside of himself; to be beside oneself, to be eccentric.**
- **Jesus refused to be pulled into the vortex of selfishness, power and tradition.**
- **“Satan could find nothing in the center of Jesus’ life to twist or corrupt**
- **John recorded similar words about Jesus...**
- **The Father’s will was Jesus’ nourishment!**

Living Like Him Produces Same Reaction Today



- **Because the world is still selfish, following Jesus will still bring scoffing and scorn.**
- **The world has hated them, John 17:14, 15, 18.**
- **The world hates you, John 15:18-20.**
- **From the world's standpoint, following Jesus continues to be eccentric.**

Living Like Him Produces Same Reaction Today

- **The broad way and the narrow way are still right angles to one another!**
- **The language used in the New Testament**
- **One of the most distressing observations**



Jesus as Center of our Faith

- **Mark records Jesus praying 3 times**
- **All three references are occasions of crisis**
- **His “family” is described as “whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister and mother”(Mark 3:35).**
- **Think all of the ways in which Jesus is thought of as eccentric.**

Conclusion



- **Do we truly understand Jesus?**
- **What keeps me from understanding Him sometimes?**
- **Our response to the word is crucial in the building of our Christian character.**
- **We must ever remain vigilant in our attempt to understand Him.**

Conclusion



- **Conscience, morality, ethics, use of gifts, Christian life—all demand a willingness to understand Jesus**
- **Persecution may differ today from Jesus' day in our country.**
- **Think of three practical steps**