



Removing the Barriers- John 10, Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 7:24-27

January 4th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ John 10, Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 7:24-27

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Read John 10. How many times does Jesus refer to his voice or God speaking? What does he say? What does this teach us about how God speaks?
2. Mark 1:13-14. These are the first recorded words of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. What does Jesus announce in the first half of verse 14, and command in second half verse 14?
3. What do the words repent and believe mean?
4. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What do both of the men have in common? What is different? What is the point of the imagery that Jesus uses?
5. What happens when we hear from God but fail to act and respond? Have you ever felt your heart hardening as you struggled to obey and do what God is calling you to do?

“Hearing God? A daring idea, some would say- presumptuous and even dangerous. But what if we are made for it? What if the human system simply will not function without it? There are good reasons to think it will not. The fine texture as well as the grand movements of life show the need. Is it not, in fact, more presumptuous and dangerous to undertake human existence without hearing God?”

-Dallas Willard, Hearing God

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ There are two central questions that we should live by as Christ-followers:
 - What is God saying to you right now?
 - What are you going to do about it?Are these two questions a part of your life right now? Do you walk through the day expecting God to want to communicate with you?
- ☀ How does God speak? What are some of the ways that we can make mistakes when it comes to learning to hear God's voice?
- ☀ We believe that God speaks primarily in three ways. What does each of these look like (we will be further digging into these over the next 3 weeks) Is each of these a part of your life?
 - God's Word
 - God's People
 - God's Spirit