

LOGF NOTES 06.14.20

When God Seems Silent

Megan Fondren, Special Speaker

Memory Verse:

Psalms 13:5-6 NLT "But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me."

It's Obvious These Times are Tough

Pandemic, riots, hate, division, natural disasters, etc.

We've been taught to look at these things with a different perspective than the world.

- Hardship is to our faith as exercise is to our muscles.

We must know our role in the Redemption Story

- Jesus is counting on us to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth and usher in His return.
- "Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created." Esther 4:14.

He's Being Awfully Quiet

- It's hard when we don't hear his voice.
- It's scary when we don't feel close to him.
- It's unnerving to be facing so we don't understand and not have a clue as to why...

Why are you not moving, God?

Why are you allowing this to happen, all powerful Savior?

Why do I feel so alone, Great Comforter?

The Silence is Deafening

- It's not just this pandemic and the repercussions of it that we're facing. Other hardships are still present, globally and personally.
- It can be so easy to blame God, or at the very least doubt His love and omnipotence.
- But NOTHING surprises God.
- This isn't the first time the World or someone God loves has faced devastating circumstances.

Look at David.

We all know the story of the boy who defeated the giant and became a great king. But there was a much darker side.

- Saul became incredibly jealous of David.
Tried to kill him several times.
David has to flee into the mountains living in constant fear.
- David KNEW the sting of God's silence.
Psalms 13:1-5 (David's cry)
- Yet, he never gave up hope.
Psalms 13:5-6
Many of the Psalms were written in David's dark times.

Look at Job

- Loved the Lord, was obedient yet he lost everything.
- It took a while, but eventually he did question God and he doubted.
- But then, Job 38 on "The Lord Speaks"

Our Response to the Silence (as advocates for Christ):

1. Trust b/c he's Trustworthy

Our circumstance does NOT and will NEVER change our God or His promises.

We need to know what His promises are! Read the word, listen to worship songs and podcasts on God's truth.

Trust that the battles we face are for our benefit.

Romans 8:28, James 1:2, 1 Peter 5:6-10

2. Seek while he may still be found

Seek his presence, seek his face, and seek his will.

Determine what lessons could be learned.

3. Pray without ceasing.

We need to call upon His name and pray according to His will.

Don't know what to pray or what His will is? Get out the word and pray it!

Philippians 4:6-7

Let's commit to praying daily...

For our politicians and decision makers

For the earth to be healed and the natural disasters to be stilled

For a cure for COVID-19

For our educators and students

For our economy as well as personal finances.

For the world to see God's glory and His will on Earth.

Summary

There is One who sees your struggle, even when He's being quiet. He not only sees you, He empathizes with you. And, perhaps this silence is the quiet before the storm of God. Don't focus on the problem, focus on **trusting** in his promises, focus on **seeking** Him, focus on **praying** His will be done.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss this week's memory verse.

Psalms 13:5-6 NLT "But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me."

2. In what ways does God seem silent for you, personally right now? In the world?

3. What do you know of God's character and promises that you can rest in knowing this silence does not mean He's forsaken you?

4. What can YOU do to be a voice in this silence? What will you do today? Tomorrow? Next week?

