



GOD SPOKE THROUGH JESUS – WHO IS SUPERIOR TO ALL.

July 11th 2021

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-6

I'd like to start off by asking a I would like you to recall your last week and identify how many times you have spoken

about what God means or has done for you?

Okay, now I would like you to recall again the last week and identify how many times you have spoken about Covid or the disruptive rail works in the area.

Your answers may be quite revealing as you identify where you are focused.

When something new or striking happens we immediately focus on it and the someone involved. Jesus was such a person – He appeared unexpectedly and began to do unusual things and received lots of attention.

So why don't we talk more about Jesus and what He has done for us instead of filling our minds and prattling on about worldly things?

I read a story where a group of Christians were sitting around commenting on the fears, tensions and the sense of futility that seems to prevail in so many circles today. The question was asked – what can we do about this? How can we make the world believe the answer? A teenage boy who was listening asked why doesn't the world believe what we have to say? Then he answered it himself – I think it is because

so many Christians don't act like they believe it themselves. How can we make Christians believe what they believe?

That is the very theme of the book of Hebrews – how to make Christians believe; how to make Christians act like Christians.

The book of Hebrews was written around 68AD which was just 2 years before the destruction of Jerusalem. No other book in the New Testament focuses upon Christ like Hebrews. It presents Christianity as the perfect and final religion, simply because the incomparable person and work of Jesus Christ permits us freedom and unrestricted access to God. There is within everyone a desperate hunger – a God-hunger.

The Jewish Christians were being persecuted and there were many false teachers amongst them – many were considering abandoning Christ and returning to Judaism.

Have you ever said in a moment of desperation – O God, if you would only speak. If I could only hear Your voice. If You would only talk to me and not be silent.

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God Spoke. In the beginning God spoke the world into being through Jesus, who is the Word. As John 1:1-2 says: “in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

Just look at creation – everything around you and you will recognize God's voice. God is the One who takes the initiative and chooses to speak to us, His creation. He is not obligated to speak just as He is not

obligated to save. God who is powerful and awesome lowers Himself in order to speak to us.

God is not an idea in our head – He is a person to listen to, to understand, enjoy and obey. He is a speaking person. God speaks that we might know Him and love Him and live in joyful obedience to Him.

Adam and Eve chose not to listen to God, even though He walked in the Garden of Eden to be with them – they tried to hide because they had disobeyed God.

God spoke in or by the Prophets. Following the fall, God had to find another way to speak to His creation – He used human spokesmen as go-betweens. He didn't write His words in the sky like those sky-writing planes, or shout from a mountain top or tap people on the shoulder and whisper in their ear.

God spoke to the prophets through visions, dreams and even face to face. When they heard Him they understood His words.

He spoke to Moses in a burning bush; Elijah in a still small voice and Amos in a basket of summer fruit.

God was speaking to the prophets, telling them what to speak and write through these chosen and inspired humans as His instruments.

The Old Testament prophets spoke truth and spoke about Christ but their prophecies were not complete – they were only given bits and pieces. The storyline of the Bible is a progressive one, leading up to the pinnacle of revelation, who is Jesus Christ.

God spoke many times in many ways. This verse should give us all comfort and encouragement.

Have you ever tried to teach or tell someone something and realized that to help them understand you have to tell them in different ways or even at different times?

If God had chosen just one way to speak to us, we would become frustrated and discouraged, so He has spoken in many places, many times, many portions and in many ways.

What about when you read God's word?

You may be reading the book of Leviticus and not be able to hear God but you then turn to Proverbs and hear Him as clear as a bell.

You may not see the point clearly in Zechariah but you may be deeply moved by the message of Jonah.

What about the strange visions seen by Ezekiel – don't understand but you may turn to the story of Job and the point is clear.

God provides us with lots of possibilities in the Old Testament where we can hear Him.

However, we humans can be very fickle – changing our loyalties depending on our circumstances and who is saying what in the media or books. We sin, we repent, we continue to sin and repent. So God spoke through His Son, Jesus.

God spoke through His Son, Jesus Christ.

God was ready and eager to tell us more about Him on a personal level, so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to be His example and to save us.

This method of communicating was far greater and better than before. So, if we complain to God to say – I want to hear You, please speak to me – God's response is – Hear my Son.

I would like to share a story I recently read in a book called Stay Salt by Rebecca Pippet. This may help understand why God chose to become a human, come to earth, be an example, die and be resurrected to once again sit in Heaven.

Becky tells the story of a summer day when she was lying on the grass outside of her house, when she started watching ants busy building a mound. She used some twigs and leaves to redirect their steps and they simply bounced off and started making a new mound.

She thought – this is like being God. I am redirecting their steps and they don't even realize it. She thought, wouldn't it be funny if one ant turned to the other ant and said – do you believe in Becky? Do you believe Becky really exists? And the other ant answering – don't be ridiculous. Becky is a myth, a fairy tale. And the first ant says – I believe that Becky exists.

Becky thought – how could she resolve this – to let the ants know that she is real? The only way would be for Becky to become an ant herself and identify totally with their sphere of reality.

Makes sense doesn't it? And that is exactly what God did. But God did not send His Son as a triumphant King, but as a baby placed in an animal feeding trough.

When Jesus came to earth He not only revealed God's divine character, He also showed us what it means to be fully human.

Jesus still retained His divinity, but He did not bring with Him a "God button" to get instant help. He showed us by His human characteristics: affection; emotions; choices; development; intellect; bodily experience and true human dependence upon God.

That is the difference between humans and the rest of God's creation. We struggle to accept our true form and sometimes get embarrassed at our dependence on God.

I have never seen a dog get mad because it was not a cat or the moon become resentful because it was not the sun. We often resent our dependent nature – reminding us that we are not God.

Jesus, as God is not just a prophet, even though some may think that. He is the Son of God. He is God. Jesus is the unique image of God's divine glory and He bears the stamp of His divine nature. He is the eternally begotten Son, without beginning and without ending. But there were false teachers causing doubt with the Jewish Christians and there are false teachers causing doubt today in our minds, what we hear and what we read and who we follow.

I wonder if you have watched someone trying to split a piece of wood using a wood splitter. The worker progressively hammers in the wood splitter until it eventually does the job – the wood splits apart.

This is what was happening for the Jewish Christians – false teachers were slowly but forcefully hammering their false words into them which started them to doubt and to split and continue to do so today.

You may still be struggling with the truth that Jesus is God's Son and Jesus is God. How could He be both somehow human but also God's Son?

God never called anyone else His Son – no angels or priests or prophets. Jesus is Supreme to all beings. Yet there are people who say your prayers can be answered if you pray to specific angels like Michael or Gabriel or even your own personal angel. Or if you pray to one of the Saints – they will answer your prayers.

Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was nothing more than an angel. Islam says that Jesus was only a prophet like Moses or Isaiah, less than even Mohammed – but Jesus is the Son of God – He is God.

The Bible clearly denounces such teaching as false. Jesus is not a superior angel, nor a superior prophet. No angels, or saints or prophets or intermediaries are greater than Christ. Jesus is God. He alone deserves our worship.

What is God's word to us through His Son?

God says I have spoken before through prophets and apostles but now I have spoken to you in the person of My Son. Who Jesus was, what He said and what He accomplished by dying and rising from the dead is God's word to us.

Jesus stands at the end of the future as He is also at the beginning of the past, for He is the creator of the worlds. All things come from His hands, He is the originator of all the processes of life, nothing began or exists but what began or existed in Him. In John 8:5b Jesus says: before Abraham was, I AM.

Why listen to Jesus? Because this same Jesus, who creates, maintains and inherits all things is the same Lord who gave up His life for sinners. His perfect sacrifice has freed and purified us from our sins. Our sins have been taken away.

Jesus, the Son of God is the one we should listen to. In the end He will have at His disposal all things and all things will be in subjection to Him.

Jesus is the final prophet, the final priest and the final King.

Jesus will make good all of His promises –

Romans 8:39 – nothing in all creation will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 21:1 – there shall no longer be death or mourning or crying or pain anymore.

When we listen to the Son of God He will make good on His own word.

In Christ's death and resurrection, the decisive battle with sin and death and hell have been fought and won. It is only a matter of time. These are the last days bringing His decisive triumph to all the peoples of the earth.

My question to you as we finish is:

Do you want to change the world?

Jesus did. Jesus told us His purpose. John 10:10 says "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full."

What did He mean? Jesus gave us life rescuing us from death. It may sound vague but it is real. We would have died and that would have been it. Game over. We would have had no hope beyond the grave.

But because Jesus fulfilled His life purpose, we know that we will all die, yet still live – Jesus did.

He died a public, undeniable death and then miraculously and supernaturally came back to life, showing Himself to His disciples and 500 others.

If He did that, why would we not be in for whatever He says we need to do than can allow us to do that too?

A life filled with meaning and wonder – a life of purpose.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for loving me even when I feel unlovable.

I am grateful that You don't judge me by my past and that You forgive me when I mess up.

Teach me to love and accept myself just as You love and accept all of me.

As I spend more and more time with You and soak in Your restoring Word, I know I will be continually refreshed.

Thank You for the hope that sustains and replenishes my soul.

In Jesus' name – Amen.