

“His Unexpected Voice”

Unexpected: Following Jesus #3

INTRODUCTION

The final lesson in our current series focuses on the unexpected when we hear Jesus’s voice. As we read the Gospels, we find so many times that Jesus’s words were not what the people expected to hear. Sometimes His words shocked people, sometimes they convicted people, and often they caused the hearer to reflect and ponder His meaning. But in the three instances we review in this study, His words brought hope and grace and comfort to the hearers.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

What is one voice from the past you would like to hear?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

His Voice Brings Hope

Q1. Read John 4:4-10, 15-18, 25-29, 39; Romans 10:14

For many, the circumstances of their lives offer little hope. Despite her discouraging circumstances, what future hope did the Samaritan woman hold on to (v. 25)? What made Jesus statement to her (v. 26) unexpected? Similarly, those around us may be discouraged but hope for some future escape from their problems. What are some things that might hinder them from receiving hope from God right now? Jesus spoke directly to the woman at the well. What are some of the ways Jesus speaks to us today? Is there anyone that you sense God might want you to speak to and offer hope?

His Voice Brings Grace

Q2. Read Mark 10:13-16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2

In Exodus 34:6 God declared to Abraham that He was a gracious and compassionate God. We find the expression of that grace from Jesus in the Gospel of Mark when He calls the children to Himself and blesses them. In what ways has God been gracious to you? How do you react to the notion that your salvation is not based on your worthiness, nor your works, but it is a gift to you from God? One thing that can undermine God’s grace is a lack of faith. What is the relationship between faith and grace in Romans 5:2? What are some things that strengthen your faith?

His Voice Brings Comfort

Q3. Read John 13:36; 14:1-6

All of us have times in our lives when we seek out comfort. If we are wise, we will look to God to provide that comfort for us. In the upper room, as Jesus prepared His disciples for His departure, Jesus comforted them by explaining what would happen while He was gone, and would happen when He returned. What did He say that comforted them? In what way does this bring you comfort today?

Q4 Read John 14:16-18; John 14:27; Matthew 28:20b; John 6:39-40

Jesus also provided for our comfort as we await His return. Read what Jesus said in each of the above passages. Which do you find brings you the most comfort and why?

Wrap-Up

The words Jesus spoke were not always what people expected. He reached out to the Samaritan woman in a gesture that shocked everyone, and offered her the hope she was longing for. He welcomed little children, and challenged his followers to be like them. Then He blessed to children, extending God’s grace to those who society held with little regard. And before He departed this earth, He spoke words of comfort to those whom He loved. That same hope, grace and comfort is available to each of us who follow Him today.

Memory Verse

My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

John 14:2 ESV

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes) _____

Challenge: *Spend some time in quietness just listening to God’s voice. At the end of one day this week write down the times when you heard God’s voice speak loudest to you.*

Q1

John 4:4-10, 15-18, 25-29, 39 ESV - 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ... 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ... 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." 27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ... 39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

Romans 10:14 ESV - 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Q2.

Mark 10:13-16 ESV - 13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 5:1-2 ESV - 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Q3

John 13:36 ;14:1-6 NIV - 36 Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Q4

John 14:16-18 NIV - 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:27 ESV - 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Matthew 28:20b ESV - 20 ... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

John 6:39-40 ESV - 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Prayer Notes cont.
