

Jesus is ____ “The Loudest Voice”

OPEN:

Welcome: Online, East Location, Here at Fort Myers. HONOR Pastors Matt/Sarah

ILL: Story of man in the neighborhood.

- I'm so grateful for my family. Stacey my wife of 7 years & our 3-yr. old Palmer. My wife is 21 weeks pregnant with our 2nd girl! We were reflecting on this stage 3.5 years ago.
- We were so excited after the **ultrasound** to find out her gender. One day we were walking in our neighborhood and heard a **LOUD VOICE CALLING US SAYING...**
- *"I see you're having a girl!"* – **"WHAT!?"** Was he at the OB?" Asked him how he knew?
- He Proudly announces: *"Well see I am a veterinarian for large mammals studying cow reproduction, and I can see how you're carrying that it's a girl!"*
- **OK fellas...Just a tip.** When interacting with a pregnant woman there are a few things on the list of stuff not to say! Comparing her to a large mammal or a cow is one of them!
- **Needless to say, I regretted giving my Ear to my Neighbor's LOUD VOICE!**
- There are a lot of loud voices in 2020 aren't there?!
- **QUESTION: Who's the Loudest Voice in Your life?** – I BELIEVE IN THIS JESUS IS SERIES...GOD WOULD WANT OUR ANSWER TO BE JESUS.
- **HOW MANY OF US CAN SAY...JESUS IS...THE LOUDEST VOICE!**

<LET'S PRAY>

ILL: The Bible chronicles a man named Elijah. Elijah was a prophet of God or someone who God spoke to and used to speak to His people.

- God's people were **worshipping false idols** and One day God wanted to get His people's attention to he had Elijah call for it to **STOP RAINING**...And it did for 3 years.
- Elijah once challenged 500 prophets of this false idol Baal. At Elijah's voice he called on God to bring fire down from heaven to burn a sacrifice. Then Elijah, under God's power did away with all 500 prophets!
- God was clearly the **LOUDEST VOICE** in Elijah's life...UNTIL ONE DAY.
- The Queen of Israel, **Jezebel** was evil. She wasn't happy at how Elijah humiliated and killed these 500 prophets, so she sends a messenger to threaten Elijah's life.
- **SUDDENLY** this passionate and brave man of God is gripped with fear!
- He runs for his life several days into the wilderness. He even leaves his trusty servant.

I KINGS 19:4 while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that **he might die. "I have had enough, LORD,"** he said. "Take my life; **I am no better than my ancestors.**" ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. **(Have you ever felt like Elijah?)**

- Elijah is at the point of depression. From an extreme high just days ago to an extreme low at the sound of a **Voice from a messenger of an enemy**. Elijah is in **isolation, exhaustion, self-pity**. “I’ve had enough”
- The voices in Elijah’s life were affecting him deeply.

TENSION: I believe if we can BE HONEST with ourselves the voices in our lives affect us deeply. The voices we give ear to matter to the outcomes of our lives. The CONTENT OF LIFE’S VOICES impact the CONTEXT of LIFE CHOICES.

If the voices of my life matter, then how do I manage them?

4 LIFE VOICES TO MANAGE!

1. RESIST THE ENEMY’S VOICE! (4 mins)

- a. **Elijah heard the voice of the enemy (represented by Jezebel) and it caused him to run for his life, to isolate himself, and to run from his purpose and calling.**
- b. The enemy we have in this world (The Devil, Satan) wants to destroy relationships, your confidence, your right standing with God, your family.
- c. HIS VOICE IS THE VOICE OF DOUBT, FEAR, GUILT, HATE. Steal, Kill, Destroy
- d. **PROBLEM**, HIS VOICE ISN’T ALWAYS AS OBVIOUS AS JEZEBEL’S. “KILL YOU”
- e. **APPEALS TO US** – Desires, Pride, Offense. We can’t ID by our feelings.
- f. Doesn’t say – “I want to steal your health”, he says...”Man those donuts look good don’t they? Have 3 more! You worked out.”
- g. Doesn’t say – “I’d like to ruin your marriage”, he says...”Don’t you think you deserve better? She doesn’t treat you like you need to be treated”.
- h. We can’t ID the enemy on how we Feel, We **IDENTIFY** the voice of the Enemy by WHERE IT LEADS YOU.
 - i. **To Stomach aches after 3 more donuts & Destroyed relationships.**
 - ii. What Leads us to anger, anxiety, confusion, Isolation, guilt, hopelessness?
- i. **INTIGATOR:** “You gonna let them talk to you like that, treat you like that?” “They don’t respect you” - BAITs YOU INTO A FIGHT- BAITs YOU INTO OFFENSE.
 - i. **ACCUSER:** You’ll never be get that temper under control, you’ll never be enough. I thought you were a Christian!
- j. **HE IS A LIAR: Deceiver** who wants your identity, your purpose, your heart.
- k. **Good News** - In **JESUS WE HAVE VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY AND HIS VOICE!**
- l. **James 4:7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**
- m. **MIP: Which life voices have led you to dead relationships, missing motivation, purpose in ruins? THAT’S THE ENEMY!!! Resist Him and He will Flee!**
- n. We can ask God to help us to **DISCERN** the Voice and for the **POWER** to **RESIST** the **VOICE OF THE ENEMY. HE HAS TO FLEE IN JESUS NAME! THE NEXT VOICE...**

2. FILTER THE VOICE OF OTHERS!

- a. Consider Elijah was having a great season and then he heard from a **Messenger** of Jezebel.
- b. **Messengers & Voices:** We know this but we live in the information age. Info is so readily available that we believe that we are at a disadvantage if we don't know what's going on everywhere with everyone. We consume voices and opinions and represent them as if they were our own. We confuse facts and figures with opinions and conspiracies.
- c. And yet we wonder why we argue more in 2020, Posts – Angry Scrolling,
- d. **Is it possible that we have consumed too many voices?**
- e. **ILL:** Wouldn't it be amazing if every voice you heard came with a warning label?
 - i. "Warning, this voice may lead to excitement & poor financial decisions!"
 - ii. "Warning, this voice may lead to temporary pleasure followed by divorce, agony, and family distress" this voice may lead to addiction, depression,
- f. **You were having a Great Day!!!** Then you answered the **phone** and talked with that cousin and you got off the call angry at the world! You got off the call anxious!
- g. **You were having a Great day,** then you watched a **mom blog on Instagram**. You started feeling like you're an unfit mother.
- h. **You were enjoying your Church experience.** You loved your group and your Pastor, your life was changing for the better and then you heard the voice of Gossip and you walked away from something that was life giving to you.
- i. **I John 4:1** Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but **TEST** the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- j. **TEST/FILTER: SOME GOES IN, SOME GOES OUT. OF GOD, STAYS IN.**
- k. **TEST = FILTERS IMPURITIES. DISNEY – HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH!**
- l. TEST/FILTER MEDIA: Social media: Comparison Friends, Parental pressure, Peer
- m. **MIP: We can't avoid every voice, but we can avoid what we allow to linger.**
- n. **ILL: My mom used to read Fight the good fight, keep the faith, finish the race.**
- o. **WHAT ABOUT US? WHAT VOICES DO YOU NEED TO FILTER IN/OUT?**

3. AMPLIFY JESUS'S VOICE! (6 mins)

- a. **ILL: What Elijah needed was the voice of a shepherd. God leads Elijah at this point of desperation. He shepherds him by giving him Rest, Provision, and Direction to draw him Closer. Mountain – Wind – Earthquake - Fire**
- b. **I Kings 19:12** After the earthquake **came a fire**, but the LORD was not in the fire. **And after the fire came a gentle whisper.**
- c. **In the Midst** of all the Loud Voices in Elijah's head, **GOD'S VOICE IS A WHISPER!!!**
- d. **ILL: Palmer has a fit, whisper "I love you" in her ear. That's all God wants to do!**
- e. **Gods voice is described as a WHISPER because we have to DRAW CLOSE to hear**
- f. **Church – "JESUS is the voice that we need in our lives."** Jesus is saying I want to:
 - i. **GUIDE YOU – Lamp to your Feet.**

- ii. BRIGHTEN THE DARKNESS - Light of the World
- iii. SEE'S US IN WEARINESS - Come to me and I'll give you rest.
- g. **WE CAN HEAR HIS VOICE:** Reading God's Word, Quiet the world around us, Set time to Pray, Set up time to invest in your relationship, Worship, Meditate on God's word. He can Speak through the Pain we are experiencing. **OUR DOSE OF THE BRASH WORLDLY VIEWS NEED TO DECREASE SO WE CAN DRAW CLOSE AND HEAR THE LORD JESUS'S GENTLE WHISPER!**
- h. **MIP: What about us? Are you CLOSE Enough, What can you do to quiet down the world around you and spend time Hearing the Voice of God?**
- i. **7X7 DAY CHALLENGE:** I Challenge you...Cut out that news station for 7 days. Or give yourself only 7 minutes. Cut out Social Media for 7 days. Add 7 minutes of prayer or worship or reading God's word. I Dare You!

TS...There is one more voice that is more important than we could know...Your own.

4. **ACTIVATE YOUR VOICE!** (God needs us to activate our own voice.)
 - a. Elijah was using His Voice to Echo the lies and Fear of the Enemy. Some of Us.
 - b. **Let's look at what God invites Elijah to do...CONFESS = HEALING.**
 - c. **Verse – I Kings 19:15 The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. [GOD is saying ELIJAH ACTIVATE Your VOICE 4 GOOD]**
 - d. What are we speaking over ourselves? Are we speaking LIFE or DEATH?
 - e. How long will **WE** speak that **I'm not enough** - That **I'll never amount to anything**- that **I'm good for nothing** - how long will WE say that I'll never change
 - f. How long will I say, "I'll never have that dream."
 - g. Listen friends there comes a time when **We've got to Tell the Enemy, "You no longer have the use of my tongue and my voice! I'm done with you!!!!"**
 - h. **I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER! I'M GOING TO ACTIVATE MY VOICE FOR GOOD!**
 - i. The next time you hear that voice that you're not enough you speak God's truth. I AM fearfully and wonderfully made. The creator of the highest mountain and the deepest sea knitted me together in my mother's womb! I am Beautiful.
 - j. God's got great plans for me. Plans to prosper me, not harm me. There is a hope and a future for me. With God guiding me There is a Purpose for my Pain!
 - k. The only thing hunting me down is God's goodness His Love & mercy. His unending love is chasing me down right now as we speak. He's never failed once!
 - l. **REACTIVATE YOUR VOICE! THE ENEMY has attacked you – Stolen your voice.**
 - m. **Men, Voice offend you, Sisters, Young Adults – Your Voice is needed to Children.**

Romans 8:8-9

gBut what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," **g**that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: **g**If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.