

Hear the Cry of the Lord

“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1). Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (John 12:37-38). But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:16-17).

Rarely are passages repeated three times in scripture. When they are, I believe that we should pay particular attention to them. During the time when Isaiah prophesied to Israel, there came a cry from heaven, “Who has believed our message?” I know that there are times when I don’t listen to my wife and I hurt her feelings. When you don’t feel like people are hearing you, you feel rejected. I know that the Lord has feelings. He is not controlled by them but he is a person. When I hear this word said over and over in the bible, I get the feeling that people throughout many generations have rejected the word of the Lord.

To get a little context for this you will need to read Isaiah 52:4-15. Here you will find that Israel has been taken away three times mostly due to their disobedience. Then there is this awesome word that the people of the Lord will be brought back with great joy and victory and then there is a final word that Jesus, the servant of God, will give his life to liberate the nations (all people groups), not just Israel. But, who will believe this good news? Jesus repeated this cry of the Spirit after he did many miraculous signs in the presence of many people, and Paul repeated this word challenging us not to be like those of Israel who did not believe.

Paul points to something that will help us believe the good news of our liberation: good ears. He says, “Faith comes from hearing the message.” Hearing is an art. It has two parts. First we must be open to receive the truth and then we must live it. If I tell my children to clean their rooms and they say, “I heard you already!” but do not clean their rooms, they did not hear me.

When I went to bible college, I had to memorize lots of material for exams. I was able to store up this info in my memory system and then answer the questions that were on the tests. Unfortunately, I thought that because I knew all this biblical stuff that I was equipped to face the world and the devil. I learned pretty quickly that this was far from true. Information is involved in our formation but until it passes through the valley of revelation it will not lead to transformation. Wow, that was a tricky mouthful. I guess what it all means is that revealed truth becomes personal. It becomes ours. We own it. We know it as a reality. We have become that truth. When we open our mouths, that truth trains our speech. When we are on our jobs or working in our homes, we live that

truth without even thinking too much about it. We have heard it for ourselves and it's ours.

If you did a little study on hearing in the bible, you would soon realize that hearing the message is congruent with living it. And this message is about our liberation. The Lord said in our passage from above, "To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed"?

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The enemy of our souls does not want us to hear this word. He will do anything to keep us thinking bondage. We look around us and see places that we are stuck in. Stuck on this job. Stuck in this house. Stuck in this financial mess. Stuck as a single adult for the rest of life. Stuck, stuck, stuck. I want to be somewhere else and I can't get there from here! Change your mind change your life. Hear the message. Jesus liberated you from the power of sin and Satan. Jesus took you out of the bondage that you were in and set you free from the penalty. But do we feel free? Do we still go back to old addictions? Do we still feel rejection and pride? Do we still talk with defeat on our lips? Yep! But why? Because liberty was meant to be lived, not just talked about. Liberty will require you to fight the GOOD fight of faith. Liberty requires a liberated mindset. If you don't conquer your own stinking thinking, you will soon stop hearing the message. It's easier to think defeated thoughts than the truth of your victory. Why? Because you have become so familiar with the old lie.

The Lord is fighting for you. I have watched a lot of boxing matches but I don't know anyone who wants to go up against the strong arm of the Lord. Has his strong arm become evident to you? His arm touches your life and frees you from sin, disease, addictions, bad reports and anything that comes against you. Paul says, "What then, shall we say in response to this? "If God is for us, who can stand against us? Who can bring any charge against those whom God has chosen (liberated)? "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:31, 33, 35 and 37). We are not stuck. We are free. Just because we have a few problems does not mean that we are bound. We must fight to believe and see the arm of the Lord.

You cannot see the arm of the Lord with your head down. You cannot see the arm of the Lord with fear in your heart. You cannot see the arm of the Lord through cynicism. You cannot see the arm of the Lord if you rely on feelings. You cannot see the arm of the Lord through the eyes of a victim. Your eyes must have faith, and faith comes through hearing the message of Christ. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). We have crossed over from the old land into the land of the living. This is not a land of bondage and fear and negativity. It is a land of plenty and we can now be free to be used by the Lord to help liberate others in our generation.

Have a great week and learn to be the real you, more than a conqueror.