

Today's Message: "Don't Waste the Recession"

Part Two

Message Study Guide

Introduction

I firmly believe that one of the greatest reasons that so many people are being adversely affected by the recession is because we have never really properly prepared ourselves to suffer. Many Christians have been listening to an Americanized version of Christianity that has taught that "you will never have to endure privation, loss or suffering. Many were taught that what affects other people will never affect good Christians. Before things get too bad in society, God will rapture us all away. Don't worry about it". The fact is that things are now a thousand times worse than we were ever led to believe they would be twenty or thirty years ago. And in case you have not noticed, the recession is affecting everyone; believers and non-believers alike.

God's Word makes it clear how desperate God is to speak to us. He desires that all of us "know" what His voice sounds like and He desires for us to "hear" His voice. What does God want to communicate to us during this recession? First and foremost, He wants us to know that no matter how difficult times become, He has promised to sustain everyone who trust in Him and who hears His still, small voice. Sadly, many today are wasting the recession because they are not hearing His voice. To make matters worse, some are willfully choosing not to hear His voice, and that is a far more serious matter.

Discussion Points

According to Scripture, one of the main reasons people willingly choose not to hear the voice of God is because when God speaks, His first priority is always to speak a word of "cleansing" before He will ever speak a word of "direction". Most people want a word of advice for direction in their lives, but are not interested in anything else, especially personal cleansing and holiness.

Discussion Questions

1. What truths can we learn about hearing God's voice from the example found in Isaiah 30:18, 21?
2. Why do you think the children of Israel were at first thrilled to hear God's voice according to Deuteronomy 5:24 but were suddenly not interested in hearing God's voice according to Deuteronomy 5:25-26? What made the difference?
3. God's desire for all of us during the recession is for God's people not to panic like other people. He desires for us to walk in a spirit of peace. How does John 16:13 help you to live such a life in the midst of this present financial storm?
4. What was Stephen attempting to illustrate when he used the example of the children of Israel choosing not to listen to the voice of God according to Acts 7:43?

Think About It

The worst thing that could happen to us as Americans during this recession would be for us to be concerned only with the correcting of the current financial crisis at the expense of seeking the mind, will, and purpose of God.

Do Something About It!

The world is desperately seeking for individuals who are willing to live above the storm and to live a life without panic. Are you in a panic or are you at perfect peace? The hymn writer said, "When all around my soul gives way; He then is all my hope and stay: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand". Choose to live a life that is an example to others who are in a panic.

Be Willing To Change

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7