

# ***The Beauty of Silence***

Habakkuk 2:20

## **Introduction;**

- A. The beauty of silence has taken on a new meaning, especially as the father of 3 teenage boys.
  - 1. I have now learned to tell them when they to struggle with submitting to what I have told them by continuing to talk, I say, “*right now silence is your best option, please use it now!*”
- B. Through silence something is being communicated, both good and bad.
  - 1. When God becomes silent, many times it is followed by this wrath.
  - 2. When we are silent to God, many times it is because we are hiding or avoiding God, it’s not out of respect, but because we have been disrespectful to God.
    - a. Which is silly to think we can hide our thoughts from God.

***Psalm 139:2*** *You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.*
- C. Habakkuk, much like us, and our children wrestle with some troublesome questions and the answers we receive.
- D. Habakkuk after questioning the revelation of God’s plan, God finally states, “*Let the whole earth be silent before Me*”.
- E. This passage is not in reference to being quiet in the church building,
  - 1. Even though Paul did instruct us to do all things orderly and decently.

*“But all things should be done decently and in order.”* **1 Cor. 14:40**
  - 2. Common courtesy involves avoiding that which distracts or annoys.
  - 3. We should be considerate of others and mindful of the purpose that draws us apart from the world during worship.
  - 4. A talking person during services & bible studies (when it is not about the topic) is far more disrespectful than a child crying.
- F. Yes it is important to consider why we are worshiping, and understand that we need to silence the thoughts (turmoil) of the world.

- G. This passage is directed at the silence of our minds in respect to all of God's wishes.
- H. Silence is very healthy for our spirit and physical body.
- I. In our silence before God we can then remember the greatness of our salvation.
  - 1. In turn it will keep us focused on what is really important in this life and beyond.
- J. So, with is in mind lets study the beauty of silence by looking at...

## **II. The Foolish Are Silenced.**

### A. The fool will not by choice be silent;

- 1. They continuously ignore the obvious need to be silent, not only before other people, but also before God.

### B. There times the foolish try to remain silent when they should be talking to God.

- 1. Adam & Eve tried to hide from God, thinking if they were silent God couldn't find them. Gen. 3:8
- 2. Jacob's Sons tried to remain silent concern the selling of their brother Joseph as a slave.
- 3. David tried to remain silent concerning his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. 2 Sam. 12
  - a. **Psalm 32:3** *For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*

### C. God will silence the foolish, here are just a few who were silenced

- 1. **Saul**, in his failure to obey God in the destruction of the Amalekites.
  - a. Samuel had to silence Saul for him to listen to what God had to say.
    - a. **1 Samuel 15:16** *Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night." And he said to him, "Speak."*
  - b. Samuel was Saul's means of communicating with God. Samuel never did see Saul again. 1 Sam 15:35
    - a. God stopped talking to Saul

2. **Ananias & Sapphira** for lying to the Holy Spirit. Acts 5
3. **Zacharias**, was silenced for not believing the angel Gabriel concerning the prophecy of his son, John the Baptist.
  - a. **Luke 1:20** *And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."*
4. **Peter** at the transfiguration
  - a. **Luke 9:34-35** *As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. [35] And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"*

### **III. The Righteousness in Silence.**

A. Righteousness will silence the fools as Peter stated.

1. *For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: **1 Peter 2:15***

B. Jesus ability to silence people and His silence was a powerful message.

1. Jesus silenced:

- a. Accusers of the woman caught in adultery. John 8

John 8:10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

- b. His enemies. Mark 3:4, Mat. 22:34 Luke 20:26

**Luke 20:26** *And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.*

2. Jesus was silent before the high priest and King Herod during his trial.

- a. **Matthew 26:63** *But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."*

- b. **Luke 23:9** So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.

#### **IV. The Reverence in Silence.**

A. Reverence is the showing of respect.

1. *When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.* **Rev. 8:1**
2. **Job 40:3-4** Then Job answered the Lord and said:] "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.

B. Some times the greatest forms of showing reverence is through silence.

#### **V. The Submission in Silence.**

A. Our problem is that we want to argue with God.

B. Some refuse to obey God because they do not like His terms and conditions.

C. Never forget the Lord is in His holy temple.

D. Notice that those who want to "argue" with Jesus in the last day in Matt 7:22 are put to silence by our Lord's answer (7:21-23).

#### **VI. The Humility in Silence.**

A. The most obvious quality of Humility is Silence.

B. God recognized people with humility and blesses them; example is Mary mother of Jesus.

1. *"and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, [48] for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant..."* **Luke 1:47-48a;**

C. Jesus exemplified humility in his invitation to help us.

1. *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls".* **Matthew 11:29**

D. Jesus silence throughout His crucifixion was the greatest demonstration of humility that mankind had witnessed.

#### **Conclusion;**

1. As we grow in Christ we will become wiser, more righteous, more reverent, and humbler, which will guide us to the beauty of silence.

2. When God speaks to us, let us listen with an open mind, a closed mouth, and a submissive and humble spirit.

3. Lets never forget Job's response when God responded to Job.

i. **Job 40:3-4** *Then Job answered the Lord and said:] "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.*

Ideal for this lesson is from an article from Bill Feist via Bible matters e-mail list