

01/07/07 PM

***“When Silence Isn’t Golden!”
Mark 15:1-5***

Introduction:

1. **IE:** We Probably All Remember Where We Were When We First Heard Of The Terrorist Attacks On 9/11 – Do You? One Thing That Absolutely Amazed Me About The Response To These Attacks Was How Quickly Commercial & Civilian Airplanes Were Grounded! In Less Than 1 Hour After The First Airplane Hit The World Trade Center In New York, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta Ordered: “Bring All The Planes Down!” This Was No Small Task, Because At That Very Moment, There Were 4,546 Aircraft In The Skies! His Order Was Given At 9:40 In The Morning, And Just 35 Minutes Later, 2000 Of Those Planes Had Landed! And By 12:16 In The Afternoon, Just 3 ½ Hours After The Initial Attack, All Commercial & Civilian Aircraft Had Landed, And The Skies Were Silent! Even Days After The Attacks, I Was Astounded To Look Up At The Sky And Not See Nor Hear A Single Airplane! The Skies Were Completely & Eerily Silent!
2. In Mark 15:1-5, We Come To A Passage That Describes Another Astonishing Silence – The Silence Of The Lord Jesus Christ As He Was On Trial Before Pilate, The Roman Procurator!
 - Read Mark 15:1-5.
 - We See From This Passage, That When “Pilate Asked Him, Art Thou The King Of The Jews?” – The Lord Answered Him In A Clear & Profound Way!
 - But When “The Chief Priests Accused Him Of Many Things” – “He Answered Nothing!”
 - And Again, In Verse 5 – “But Jesus Yet Answered Nothing!”
 - This Amazing Silence Of The Lord, That Even “Marveled” Pilate, Was Prophesied Hundreds Of Years Before By The Prophet Isaiah!
 - Isaiah 53:7 - “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth!”
 - As Terrible As The Terrorist Attack On 9/11 Was, A Greater Terrorist Attack Occurred When Christ, The Righteous Son Of God, Was Arrested, Tried, Tortured & Crucified!
 - And As The Skies Were Silent On 9/11, So Christ Was Silent!
3. This Morning, I Want To Focus Our Attention On The Silence Of The Lord!
 - “He Answered Nothing!” (Verse 3)
 - “But Jesus Yet Answered Nothing!” (Verse 5)
1. ***“Jesus Answered Nothing” –
- But Not Because He Had No Words To Speak!***
 - Its Better For Some People To Be Silent Because They Have Nothing To Say!
 - **IE:** Albert Einstein once attended a dinner at which he received an award. Although Einstein was not scheduled to speak, the audience clamored for the great scientist. Einstein stood and said, “Ladies and gentlemen, I am very sorry, but I have nothing to say.” Einstein sat down, but rose a few seconds later and added, “In case I do have something to say, I’ll come back.”
 - “Jesus Answered Nothing” – But He Did Have Something To Say!
 - Consider The Fuller Revelation Of His Words To Pilate Recorded In The Gospel Of John!
 - John 18:36-37 - “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice!”
 - Pilate Got The Full Dose Of The Gospel Message From The Very Source Of The Gospel Himself!
 - The Lord Had Very Powerful Words To Speak!
 - And His Entire Life & Ministry Reveals The Life-Changing Power Of His Words!
 - But Still, “Jesus Answered Nothing!”

- But Not Because He Had No Reason To Speak!

- He Had Every Reason & Right To Speak!
 - After All, As Peter Said About Him: “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life!” (John 6:68)
- The Lord Had Very Important Reasons To Speak!
 - But Still, “Jesus Answered Nothing!”

- But Not Because He Had No Desire To Speak!

- John 15:7-8 - “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples!”
- The Lord Had Very Loving Desires To Speak!
 - But Still, “Jesus Answered Nothing!”
 - Why?

2. “Jesus Answered Nothing” –

- Because He Had No Followers Who Would Listen!

- It Is Interesting To Note That Jesus Would Answer Pilate, But He Would Not Answer The Chief Priests!
 - As An Old Preacher Once Put It – “When Speech Was Useless He Was Silent!” (N. Smyth)

*** Sometimes The Lord Stays Silent In Our Lives As Well!**

- Some Of You Might Think This Is A Good Thing!
 - After All, When The Lord Is Silent:
 - It Keeps You From Feeling Uncomfortable!
 - It Keeps You From Being Convicted!
 - It Keeps You From Being Challenged!
 - And When It Comes To Your Personal Comfort, Convictions & Challenges:
 - “Silence Is Golden” – As The Saying Goes!
- But, Silence Is Not Golden, When You Are On The Receiving End Of The Lord’s Silence!
 - How Long Have You Lived With The Lord’s Silence?

3. Sometimes The Lord Stays Silent!

- But Not Because He Has No Words To Speak!

- John 6:63 - “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life!”
- He Has Some Very Powerful Words To Speak To You!
 - But Still, The Lord Stays Silent!

- But Not Because He Has No Reason To Speak!

- Ephesians 5:26-27 - “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish!”
- He Has Some Very Important Reasons To Speak To You!
 - But Still, The Lord Stays Silent!

- But Not Because He Has No Desire To Speak!

- No Less Than 8 Times In The Gospels, Does Jesus Say: “If Any Man Have Ears To Hear, Let Him Hear!”
 - He Desires To Speak So That You Might Hear!
- Yes, He Has A Very Loving Desire To Speak To You!
 - But Still, The Lord Stays Silent!

4. Sometimes The Lord Stays Silent!

- Because You Chose To Ignore His Words!

- Just As The Chief Priests Ignored His Words, So Do You!

- “ They Had Refused To Listen, And So He Became Silent!” (J. D. Jones, Welsh Preacher)
- You Can Ignore His Words Through Ignorance Of His Word!
 - Neglecting His Word By Not Reading, Studying, Meditating!
 - ***And When You Refuse To Listen, He Will Be Silent!***
- You Can Ignore His Words Through Disobedience To His Word!
 - When The Lord Clearly Teaches Something In His Word, And You Chose Not To Follow It!
 - ***And When You Refuse To Listen, He Will Be Silent!***
- ***Because You Chose To Listen To Other’s Words!***
 - Just As Pilate Eventually Listened To The False Words & Testimony Of The Chief Priests, Even Though He Had Heard The True Word & Testimony Of Jesus!
 - You Can Listen To The Words Of Others More Than The Word Of God!
 - ***And When You Refuse To Listen, He Will Be Silent!***
 - You Can Listen To The Words Of Yourself More Than The Word Of God!
 - ***And When You Refuse To Listen, He Will Be Silent!***

Conclusion:

1. How Long Have You Lived With The Lord’s Silence?
 - Does He Speak To You?
 - Does His Word Convict, Correct & Challenge You?
 - Is It Fresh In Your Mind & In Your Heart?
 - If He Does Not Speak To You:
 - How Much Longer Will You Live With His Silence?
 - The Silence Of The Lord In The Life Of A Christian Is Not Golden!
 - It Is A Tragedy!
2. The Lord Will Remain Silent If You Continue To:
 - Ignore His Words!
 - And Listen To Other’s Words, Over & Above His Own!
3. So, What Must You Do?
 - Consider These Verses:
 - Psalm 28:1 - “ Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit!” (David)
 - Psalm 35:22b - “ O Lord: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me!” (David)
 - Recognize What The Silence Of The Lord Means!
 - It Means That The Lord Is Far From You!
 - It Means That You May Be Far From The Lord!
 - Perhaps Even Eternally!
 - Realize What Prevents The Lord From Speaking His “ Wonderful Words Of Life” To You!
 - Plea, From The Bottom Of Your Heart & From The Very Depth Of Your Soul:
 - “ Be Not Silent To Me!” & “ O Lord: Keep Not Silence!”

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