

Listening for God's Voice

Mike Riley

A Native American and his friend were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square. It was during the noon lunch hour and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said, "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes beneath the branches, and sure enough, there was a small cricket. His friend was utterly amazed. "That's incredible," said his friend. "You must have super-human ears!" "No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for." "But that can't be," said the friend. "I could never hear a cricket in all this noise."

"Yes you can," came the reply. "Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed that every person's head within twenty feet turned and looked to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" asked the Native American. "It all depends on what's important to you, and what you're listening for."

What's important to us? What do we listen for? Are there times that we fail to listen to God, because we are focused on other things that are more important to us? Regarding the Jews, Jesus said, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear." (Matthew 13:15-16; cf. Isaiah 6:9-10; Acts 28:26-27).

Brethren, amid the distractions of the world all around us, may our ears always be open, not only ready to listen for, but to hear and be obedient to God's voice as He speaks to us through His word (1 Samuel 3:9-10; cf. John 8:47; John 10:4; John 10:27; 1 John 4:6).



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

June 28, 2020

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: *Whose Turn to Return?*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-8

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: July 1st**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. We will be winding up our study of Amos.
- **Ice Cream Social Distancing: Friday, July 10th, 6pm until gone.**
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: August 30th (if possible) venue TBA**
- **Sojourners-** canceled



- We are planning an **Ice Cream Social Distancing** outreach event for **Friday July 10th at 6pm in the church parking lot**. There will be homemade and store-bought ice cream to give out. Please let Arthur or Paul know if you are willing to donate ice cream or cones to this effort.
- The **Sojourners** regret that they had to cancel their trip this year due to Covid 19 self-quarantine restrictions on travelers from AL and AR.
- Please let Sandy know if you would like some **N95 masks** or if you would like some homemade **cloth face masks**.
- **We are now meeting in the building for Bible study and worship on Sunday and for Bible study on Wednesday! We no longer publish our worship on livestream.**
- **Arthur** will be preaching today.
- **Ruthie** will be having the first of her two cataract surgeries early tomorrow morning.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for all of us as individual states are opening for business and gatherings in stages. Pray that the virus has lost much of its power.**
- **We are thankful to see our brothers and sisters in Christ as we return to worshipping together here in our beautiful building.**
- Pray for **Ruthie** as she has cataract surgery tomorrow morning.
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother, who was in hospital here in Sayre with a life-threatening illness.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek**, wife of Doug, who preaches in Plattsburg. She has lung cancer and is also dealing with two brain tumors.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his esophageal cancer in the months to come.
- **Bill Dayton**, preacher in Kentucky is suffering from severe depression. Pray for him and for his wife Laura, who cares for him.
- **Pray for our country as we go through a time of turmoil and racial tension.** Pray for our leaders and help us all to think and behave like Christians...with love.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.