

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

“Does God Still Speak To People Today?”

Fifth Sunday of Easter
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church
4-29-18

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Acts 8:26 “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is the wrod of God. (Cross reference – Genesis 10:19, Acts5:19; 8:5, 29,)

Illustration “Speaking”

(Show picture Speak Lord)



A young man had been to Wednesday night Bible Study. The Pastor had shared about listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice. The young man couldn't help but wonder, "Does God still speak to people?" After service he went out with some friends for coffee and pie and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "God. If you still speak to people speak to me. I will listen. I will do my

best to obey." As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought, stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, "God is that you?" He didn't get a reply and started on toward home. (Show picture milk)



But again, the thought, buy a gallon of milk. The young man thought about Samuel and how he didn't recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. "Okay, God, in case that is you, I will buy the milk." It didn't seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home. As he passed Seventh street, he again felt the urge, "Turn down that street." This is crazy he thought and drove on pass the intersection. Again, he felt that he should turn down seventh street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down Seventh. Half jokingly, he said out loud, "Okay, God, I will." (Show traffic)



He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in semi-commercial area of town. It wasn't the best but it wasn't the worst of neighborhoods either. The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark like the people were already in bed. Again, he sensed something, "Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street." The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. "Lord, this is insane.

Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad and I will look stupid." Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the door, "Okay God, if this is you, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here."

(Show car sitting on a street)



He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, "Who is it? What do you want?" Then the door opened before the young man could get away. The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face and he didn't seem to happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. "What is it?" The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, "Here, I brought this to you." (Show crying baby)



The man took the milk and rushed down a hall way speaking loudly in Spanish. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face. The man began speaking and half crying, "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk." His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I ask him to send an Angel with some.. Are you an Angel?"

(Show handing money)



The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car and the tears were streaming down his face. He knew that God still answers prayers. (Author unknown) (<https://bible.org/illustration/does-god-still-speak-us>)

- I. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, when I hear story like this, it warm my heart and sometime it can be very emotional. The question is, "Does God still speak to people today?" In our lesson today in the book of Acts, the Apostle Luke wrote the account of how God spoke to Philip to go and preach the Good News to the Ethiopian. (Show map of Ethiopia)



The story about the Ethiopian describe that he is an important person from the country of Africa traveling through Egypt to Jerusalem. His job is managing the money for his queen. He came to Jerusalem looking for the true God. As he travel through Egypt, he must have saw many idol image and false god that people believe and worship them. After visiting Jerusalem, he noticed that the Israelite did not practice their faith according to God's will. He wanted to know more about this God so as he was traveling he began to read about God's salvation. While he was reading, God sent Philip to the Ethiopian Enoch.

(Show Philip & Ethiopia Enoch)



When Philip got to the Ethiopian, he heard the Ethiopian read, "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." (Acts 8:32-33). "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "Unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him." (Acts 8:30-31) (Show Philip baptizing the Ethiopian)



Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:36). The Ethiopian believe, "As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord

suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:36-39).

II. Does God still speak to people today? (Show when God speak)



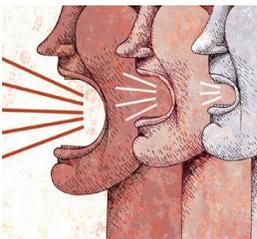
In the Old Testament and New Testament God had always sent his angel and messenger to speak to his people. (Genesis 12 God called Abraham, 2 King 1:13, Acts 5:19; 10:7, 22; 12:8-11, 23; 27:23 – Matthew 1, 2, Angel did his work and spoke Joseph and Marry and many more in the Scripture that show God spoke to His people. If God were speak to you, are you listening? If God ask you to do His work, will you answer to His call? (Show Cloud form GPC and Planting corn)



A young farmer, standing in his field, observes a peculiar cloud formation. The clouds form the letters G, P, and C, and he thinks them a call from God: *Go preach Christ!* The farmer rushes to the deacons of his church and insists that he has been called to preach. Respectful of his ardor, they invite him to fill the pulpit. That Sunday, the sermon is long, tedious, virtually incoherent. When it finally ends, the leaders sit in stunned silence. Finally, a wizened deacon mutters to the would-be preacher, "Seems to me the clouds were saying 'Go plant corn.'" (<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2003/fall/3.35.html>) (Show dear God)



We live in a sinful world and you have to be careful and pay attention if God is speaking to you. You will always have to be ready to discern to make sure that it is God's speaking to you and not Satan trying to deceive you. Some of you will asked, "Dear God, how come I can never hear your voice of calling me, speaking to me, or telling me what I must do?" We human need evidence, need proof to show that is God actually speaking to us in order for us to truly believe. (Show mouth yelling)



Our sinful nature does the opposite. When we don't hear from God, we tend to yell, scream, or even curse God for not hearing us. We want God to do for us more than what we can do for God. Most people will say, "God, if you do this for me then I will come to church? God If you answer my prayer then I will go and tell others about your salvation? Remember that God is the one whom created you, you can't demand from God, what he has given you already and will continue to give to you into the future.

III. Does God still speak to people today? Yes! God is still speaking to us today through His Word. (Show Bible)



His Word is the Scriptures in the Bible. His Word speaks to us to believe and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. His Word speaks to us that salvation is through Christ alone. There are no other gods that can save you from eternal condemnation. Only through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6) (Show Romans 10)



God word taught us that in order for us to hear His word, we must listen to His word. The Apostle Paul write, "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For

there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:10-13).

(Show holding a Bible)



I heard a story some time ago of a missionary in Africa who gave a Bible to one of the African men. When it was given to him, the man hugged it close & expressed great appreciation for the precious gift of God’s Word that the missionary had given him. But when the missionary saw him a few days later he noticed, much to his dismay, that the Bible looked like it was already falling apart, & that many of its pages were missing. The missionary asked him, "What happened? What did you do to your Bible? When I gave it to you I thought you considered it to be a treasured possession." (Show loose bible pages)



The man replied. "Indeed, it is a very precious possession. It is the finest gift I have ever received. It is so precious that when I returned to my village I very carefully chose a page & tore it out & gave it to my mother. Then I tore out another page & gave it to my father. And I tore out another page & gave it to my wife. Finally, I gave a page of God’s Word to everybody who lives in my village." We may smile at that, but what a testimony! The message of God’s Word was so wonderful to him that he wanted to share it with everyone he knew! (<https://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-melvin-newland-stories-bibleinfluence-1406?ref=TextIllustrationDetails>)

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, God still speak to us today. We know that He still speak to the old, young, or child through His word. The Good News is that when His word speak to us, we need to turn our ear and listen to Him. (Show Jesus)



The Apostle John write, “Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” (John 8:47). As a child of God, we belong to his saving grace as He continue to encourage and strengthening us through His word. Do not loose heart, the Holy Spirit continue to help and lead you so that you may hear and do according to His will. As He promises,

“I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20). Thanks be to God for His goodness that He daily speak to us through His word. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.