

We Have Heard Him Ourselves

For we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world. John 4:42

There is much power in the testimony of a life that has been dramatically changed by the love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Though some testimonies may seem more dynamic, each and every one causes the angels to rejoice that a repentant child has come home to the Heavenly Father. In John 4, it was the account of the woman at the well encountering the Christ that caused others to believe. God uses different means to convey the gospel of salvation. Whether it be through a sensational testimony, a gospel tract, a compelling sermon, or simply reading the Bible; as powerful as each of these can be, it is still necessary to hear God's voice through the messenger. Many of the Samaritan woman's fellow citizens reminded her that it was after hearing Him for themselves that they believed.

The new birth begins when the Lord speaks to our heart, though not with an audible voice, and shows us our need for forgiveness; and we then respond by calling on His name for salvation. Conversely, it is quite possible to go through all the motions of the Christian faith and still not hear the voice of the Lord. We each know all too well, that it is possible to complete our daily reading of the scripture and not have paid any attention, or listen to a stirring sermon and not hear what the Lord has said. It is necessary as an individual that we hear the Lord Himself with our own spirit. Jesus warned us "he that hath ears, let him hear." To emphasize the importance of His message, He also said "Let these sayings sink down into your ears." It is possible to block out the voice of the Lord and hinder it from penetrating our soul and conscience; or we can respond and allow Him to accomplish His intended purpose. Revelation states "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to Him..." It is when we hear His voice and allow it to sink down in our hearts that we can truly open the door to allow the King of Kings into our lives. May we rejoice if we have heard His voice, but may we also continue to "hear Him ourselves" today.

JDE