



water from rock

## **Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – May 30, 2024**

God be with you.

Do you ever wonder, wonder how our Lord Jesus has this incredible ability to see the individual in the crowd? I mean, the gospel show many times when Jesus, he would, he would single out one individual from the multitude to focus the full force of his love and attention on that one individual.

I mean, how is it that Jesus knows how to single out that one person from the multitude. Like for example, the paralyzed man by the pool of Bethesda, the, the text says that there was a multitude of sick people there needing healing. But from out of that great number, Jesus focuses on one man and he heals that one man leaving behind a multitude of others unhealed are, are the Samaritan woman at the. Well as Jesus goes miles out of his way into unfriendly Samaritan territory to minister to this one outcast woman.

And so I wonder, I wonder how it is that Jesus is led to specific individuals to touch a life. This is a question that I, that I think about a lot and a question that takes me to a passage of scripture that, that I want to share with you as I think it has significance for any one of us who want to touch people's lives with the love of God. I'm looking at the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah, the book of Isaiah chapter 50 verse four. This is a passage of scripture that is called a servant song as it is a song which prophecies which foretells the life and ministry of Jesus, the servant of the Lord.

Ok. So it says in verse four, I read the Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word morning by morning. He wakens wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught this, this gives us insight into how Jesus begins every day. He says the father, the Lord God, he wakens me and he awakens my ear. Ok? Here are two different things that the father wakens me each day. And he wakens my ear to listen to hear what he wants to say to me.

Now, I don't, I, I don't know, I, I don't know if this was an audible voice that Jesus hears. But, but this is a prompting. It is a leading by the father. It says that that, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word morning by morning. He wakens wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught, this is the Lord Jesus Christ, the servant and any one of us who wants to be a servant of the Lord. I, I, I wish I, I wish I had learned this years ago to begin my day listening to the father for his promptings his nudging his leads his directions. For my day.



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The Lord has given me the tongue of a teacher that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word morning by morning, he wakens wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught, OK, I'm gonna hold my thumb here at Isaiah 50. And I'm turning over, turning over to the gospel of Mark chapter one. And I see this as it is playing out in Jesus' life. Mark chapter one, Jesus is beginning his public ministry and the, the the demands on Jesus are huge. I mean, we see the crowds pressing on him seeking his time and attention.

But but then we read in Mark chapter one verse 35 in the morning while it was still very dark. Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place and there he prayed. Notice it says in the morning that makes me think of the servant song in Isaiah 50 morning by morning, he wakens me, wakens my ear to listen. And we see Jesus doing this again and again throughout the gospels as Jesus wants the father to set his agenda for the day than not for the world to set his agenda and, and that is why Jesus as he comes down to the end of his life, the end of three years of ministry, Jesus can say to the father, I have finished the work you gave me to do.

And so whenever Jesus spoke about his life and ministry, I mean, Jesus always said that he received direction from the father that, that he received his message. His words from the Father morning by morning wakens me. That's when Jesus reported for duty. That that's when Jesus got his marching orders for the day. That that's how Jesus knew to touch that one individual from the multitude.

Now, we, we don't usually get the opportunity to speak to large numbers of people to touch many lives. But we do in our neighborhood, in our places of work, our homes, our churches and the Father's touch on their lives begins in the morning as we listen for the father asking him to guide and empower our day and by God's grace, you and I, we, we can touch those individual lives, but we must listen, we must listen.

And it is exciting what God can do through our lives as we listen. And so that we can say one day to the father, I have finished the work you gave me to do. And so a, a father help us to listen to you as we ask for your wisdom and direction, help us to hear your voice amidst the noise of the world. Give us discernment to recognize your marching orders for our day. May your holy spirit guide our steps so that we fulfill your purpose for us in this day, fill us with the love and compassion of Jesus, helping us to see that individual in the crowd. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.